THE WATERS OF DEADMOON! RICHARD CORBEN!

# HEAVY METAL®

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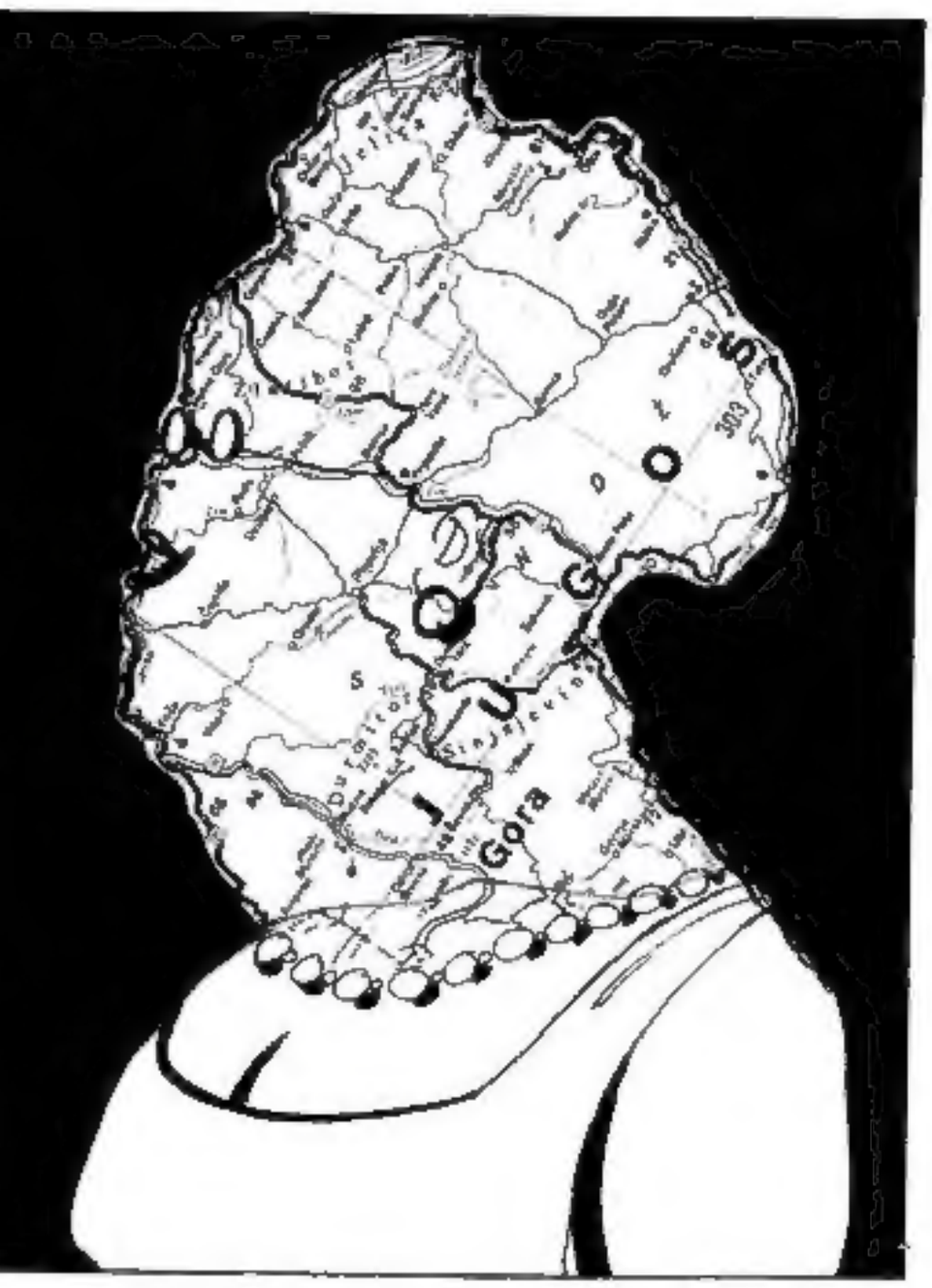
# Peter Kuper's COMICS TRIP




TRAVELLERS I HATED

- Germans: loud, self-centered, egotists
- French: snobby, self-centered, egotists
- Israelis: rude, egotists
- Australians: loud, obnoxious, mannerless
- some English: stuff-shirt, boring, rude
- Californians: brainless, inane, obnoxious
- most other Americans: whiny, loud, overt tourists

TRAVELLERS I LIKED

- Dutch: attractive, bright, relaxed
- Swedanish: same as above minus bright
- Austrians: intelligent, friendly, although some Master Race attitude holdover
- some English: witty, friendly, semi-informed
- New Zealanders: good travellers, fun, relaxed
- French: how can you hate people who love comix?!

"OF COURSE,

*it wasn't by accident that my wife, Betty and I found ourselves globe-trotting through Africa and Southeast Asia. We had been fantasizing about and saving for this trip for years."*

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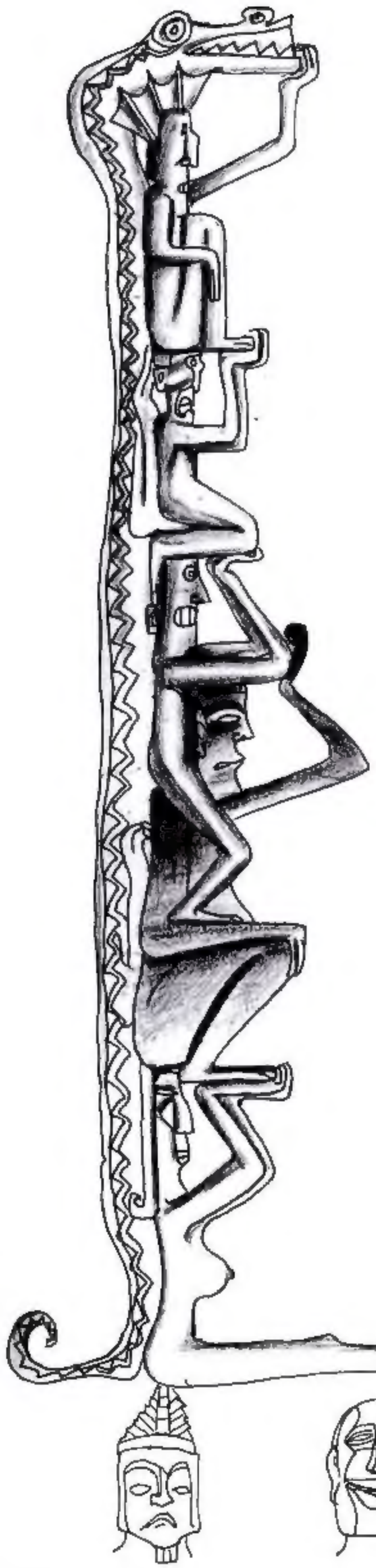
# "THIS WAS TRAVEL

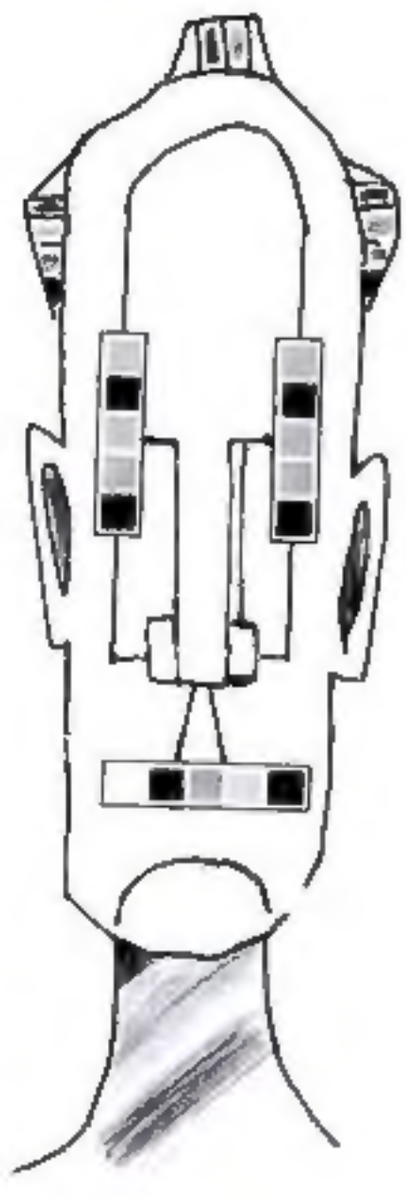
*with a capital "T"*—Indiana Jones, Lawrence of Arabia, The Year of Living Dangerously, The African Queen, The Man Who Would be King! *Vacations are for tourists anxious to disengage, relax and watch their time evaporate. What we were looking for was high-adventure. Unexplored regions, 18-hour bus rides, bizarre infections: we wanted to throttle the experiences for all they were worth—and then lie on the beach for a week."*



# "WHEN WRESTLING

*with some nasty microbe or another, one has ample opportunity to squat or double over and reflect on one's life. I found this problem could be avoided with a few simple steps:*

1. *Develop new annoying habits.*
2. *Consume a magic mushroom omelette.*
3. *Scuba dive without training.*
4. *Rent a motorcycle (helmets not included).*
5. *Don't go on the trip expecting to become Lawrence of Arabia.*



*The process of communicating these designs to a Balinese mask maker was probably the deepest conversation I've had without words. Through drawing, gesturing, and laughing, I commissioned him to carve (counter-clockwise) Just-New-In-Town-Take-My-Money, Constipation, and Lost/Stolen Passport masks.*

WELL, MY DEAR GRANDMASTER OF THE WARDROBE, WHAT NEWS DO YOU BRING ME?

# The Waters Of Dead Moon The End

ALAS, PRINCESS VERA! NOTHING THAT YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW. YOUR HUSBAND, PRINCE JEROME, WHO USED TO MONOPOLIZE THE WATER SUPPLY ON DEADMOON HAS QUARRELED WITH HIS COUSIN, MALIK, WHO PROVIDED THE FUEL TO OPERATE THE MACHINES WHICH FILTERED THE WATER....

SINCE THEIR QUARREL THE WATER PUMPS HAVE STOPPED WORKING AND...

...OUR WATER RESERVES WILL ONLY LAST A WEEK. THEN WE WILL ALL DIE OF THIRST!

WE WON'T IF MALIK FINDS THE PRINCE. THE DUKE COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT THE WATER. ALL HE WANTS IS THE SECRET TO PRINCE JEROME'S ETERNAL YOUTH....

THAT'S WHY HE'S SO DETERMINED TO HUNT HIM DOWN!

AS SOON AS HE'S OBTAINED HIS HEART'S DESIRE, MALIK WILL COME BACK. HE WILL GIVE US THE FUEL WE NEED TO MAKE THE PUMPS WORK ONCE AGAIN...

YOU'RE DELUDING YOURSELF, PRINCESS. DUKE MALIK HAS NEVER GIVEN SOMETHING FOR NOTHING.

WE WILL MAKE HIM A TEMPTING OFFER. THE DUKE LOVES POWER. POWER HAS NO REASON TO EXIST IF THERE ARE NO PEOPLE TO EXERCISE IT AGAINST....

I WILL EXPEDITE ALL THE FORMALITIES OF MY DIVORCE FROM THAT SILLY JEROME, AND I WILL ASK MALIK TO MARRY ME...

1

HE WILL THEN BECOME THE LEGITIMATE RULER OF DEADMOON....

PRINCESS VERA, I FEAR THAT THIS MARRIAGE MIGHT NOT BE SUCH A GOOD IDEA, GIVEN YOUR CURRENT PHYSICAL CONDITION...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

WELL.... YOUR AGE FOR ONE...

I STILL HAVE SOME GOOD PARTS LEFT IN ME.....

I DON'T DOUBT THAT.... HOWEVER... NOTHING TELLS US THAT MALIK HAS FOUND THE PRINCE YET OR THAT THE PRINCE HAS SURRENDERED TO HIM....

NONSENSE, MY DEAR! THE DUKE HAS SOME ADVANTAGES OVER THE PRINCE: HIS ARMORED TRAIN ENABLES HIM TO OVERCOME ANY OBSTACLE AND WE ALL KNOW HOW MUCH FIRE POWER HE HAS!

MALIK ALSO HAS IN HIS POSSESSION SOME OLD MAPS THAT WILL HELP HIM FIND HIS WAY AROUND. HE WILL BE ABLE TO INDULGE IN HIS FAVORITE SPORT: HUNTING BIG GAME!

JEROME HASN'T A PRAYER!

MARSEILLE

CASINO

WE'VE JUST PASSED MONTELIMAR, SIR.

I KNOW THAT, IDIOT!

THIS MAP, WHICH COMES TO US FROM A HIGHLY EVOLVED PAST, TELLS ME WHAT TO EXPECT ON OUR ROUTE....IT ALSO TELLS ME OUR EXACT LOCATION OF THE FUEL DEPOSITS IN THE TERRITORY WE'RE ABOUT TO ENTER....

AN

YOU SEE, MY DEAR KALI, THIS DESOLATE ABOMINATION IN WHICH WE LIVE OFFERS A FEW PRIVILEGES TO US SURVIVORS NONETHELESS: NO MORE TOLLS, NO MORE LINES, NO MORE RECEIPTS!

DOES ANYONE REALLY KNOW WHAT HAPPENED?

MAYBE A CHEMICAL WAR, OR MAYBE A NUCLEAR WAR... OR ANOTHER KIND OF WAR...

THE END RESULT OF A LONG PROCESS OF DEVOLUTION, THE ORIGIN OF WHICH GOES BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF TIME...

BARNABAS WAS THE ONLY PERSON THAT KNEW OUR HISTORY. BUT BARNABAS HAS DIED, TAKING HIS KNOWLEDGE WITH HIM...

ALL I WANT TO KNOW IS WHAT'S INSIDE THESE VIALS...

THE MIRACULOUS COMPOUND THAT STOPS THESE CELLS FROM SELF-DESTRUCTING. THE ELIXIR OF YOUTH!

THE CONTENTS OF THESE TWO VIALS MUST BE MIXED, BUT I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH OF EACH IS NECESSARY.

A MISTAKE IN THE DOSAGE, EVEN A SMALL ONE, MEANS DEATH!

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT?

I HAVE TRIED IT ON SOME OF THE CREW...

...I NEED THE TWO WHO ARE LEFT TO HELP GUIDE OUR TRAIN...

I ALSO NEED SOME NEW VOLUNTEERS...

WHY ARE YOU LOOKING AT ME THAT WAY, DUKE?

WAS I LOOKING AT YOU?

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT I MAY STILL BE USEFUL TO YOU...

I WAS BARNABAS'S ASSISTANT FOR MANY YEARS AND I COULD NOT HELP BUT LEARN SOME GENERAL PRINCIPALS OF MEDICINE... YOU NEED MY HELP!

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF THE ARCHDEACON, HOWEVER, WOULD NOT AFFECT YOU AS MUCH, SINCE YOU DO NOT HAVE MUCH FAITH IN RELIGION....

YOU FORGET ONE THING, TURVIMBUS, BASIL AMUSES ME.

I WILL ONLY DESTROY HIM IF I REALLY HAVE TO...

IT APPEARS WE DON'T HAVE A WILLING VICTIM AVAILABLE. THAT'S ONE MORE REASON TO RESUME OUR HUNT!

SHOULD WE STILL HEAD SOUTH?

YES, MISTER MOUSE. IT'S THE ONLY POSSIBLE ROUTE JEROME AND HIS FRIENDS HAD NO OTHER CHOICE

THEY'RE OUT THERE. I KNOW IT. I FEEL IT...

IT'S STRANGE, BUT MY PENDULUM DOESN'T AGREE. WE SHOULD HEAD WEST.

YOU ARE TOTALLY OFF, TURNIMBUS.

WE'RE TURNING AROUND.

PERFECT! FULL STEAM AHEAD!

HA, HA, HA! HA, HA!

HA, HA, HA! HA! HA!

PRINCE, WHAT MAKES YOU LAUGH?

I'M NOT REALLY LAUGHING I'M JUST TRYING TO IMAGINE WHAT MALIK IS FEELING NOW-- I'M SURE HE THINKS HE WILL FIND ME SHORTLY..

IT'S A BITTERSWEET MIXTURE OF PLEASURE AND DISTRESS, SINCE DEEP DOWN HE KNOWS THAT IN THE END THIS WILL ALL HAVE BEEN IN VAIN ..

THEN YOU MUST BE EQUALLY DISTRESSED, PRINCE JEROME.

THE DUKE HAS STOLEN YOUR PRECIOUS ELIXIR, AND EVEN IF YOU EVER GET IT BACK, YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO BENEFIT FROM IT ANYMORE.

YOUR BROTHER, BARNABAS, WAS THE ONLY ONE TO KNOW .

YOU'RE RIGHT . I FEEL I AM GROWING OLD, JUST LIKE EVERYBODY ELSE. I WILL START LOOKING LIKE MY DEAR COUSIN VERY SOON, AND MAYBE WORSE, LIKE POOR VERA

BUT WHAT THE HECK! THAT'S JUST LIFE! NO ONE MUST FEEL SORRY FOR ME!

I HAVE CERTAINLY TAKEN FULL ADVANTAGE OF MY YOUTH!

I WON'T BE A HYPOCRITE AND DENY THAT IT'S PRECISELY BECAUSE OF YOUR LAST INFATUATION THAT WE FIND OURSELVES IN THIS UNPLEASANT SITUATION.

IF YOU HAD ONLY LISTENED TO YOUR FRIENDS

LET'S TALK ABOUT MY FRIENDS! I GAVE PARTIES FOR THEM AND SATISFIED THEIR SLIGHTEST WHIM! THEY WERE MY PLAYTHINGS, MY PUPPETS AND THEN THEY BETRAYED ME AND SIDED WITH THE DUKE.

THEY ABANDONED ME LIKE AN OLD SOCK ..

THAT LITTLE WHORE MADE YOU LOSE FACE. WITHOUT HER, YOU'D STILL BE THE RULER OF DEADMOON

VIOLHAINE IS NO ORDINARY WHORE, GOLIATH BEFORE I MET HER, I LOVED ONLY MYSELF IT WAS BORING!

LET HIM WHO HAS NOT LOVED ONCE HONESTLY IN HIS LIFE THROW THE FIRST..

!?

BOL!

DID YOU SEE WHO THREW THAT AT US?

NO, PRINCE, I DIDN'T

BUT WE'RE HEADING STRAIGHT TOWARD THAT SAND CASTLE

I THINK WE'LL FIND THE ANSWER TO SOME OF OUR QUESTIONS THERE...

STOP! DON'T MOVE!

BE MORE RESPECTFUL, SOLDIER! I AM PRINCE JEROME, JEROME OF DEADMOON

I KNOW YOUR SUBJECTS HAVE DEPOSED YOU. YOU ARE A FUGITIVE. YOU HAVE NO MORE POWER, NO AUTHORITY

YOU ARE VERY WELL INFORMED! DON'T TELL ME THAT MALIK IS ALREADY.

WE DO NOT KNOW YOUR TREACHEROUS COUSIN. NO STRANGER CAN ENTER THIS CITY...

YOU CALL THIS HEAP OF SAND A CITY?

LISTEN. MY PINKY TELLS ME THAT YOU ARE NOT HUMAN, IN THE NOBLEST SENSE OF THE WORD

IS MY PINKY RIGHT? YOUR HEAD REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING..

I'M SURE I'VE MET YOU BEFORE, SOMEWHERE... OR A MORE TRIVIAL VERSION OF YOU... MAYBE IN MY CLOSET?

YOU ARE CONFUSING MITES WITH TERMITES, SIR. AND YOUR IRONY IS MISPLACED.

IRONY IS OFTEN IGNORANCE WRAPPED UP IN LAUGHTER

YOU NOT ONLY SPEAK THE LANGUAGE OF MEN, YOU PRIDE YOURSELF IN BEING A PHILOSOPHER THE WORLD HAS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN

YES BUT WHOSE 'FAULT IS IT?

ARE YOU THE QUEEN MOTHER OF THIS COLONY?

I'M NOT THE QUEEN, I AM ONLY A NURSE

THE QUEEN HAS ORDERED ME TO LET YOU IN AND TAKE YOU TO HER

I AM EXTREMELY HONORED, YOUR MAJESTY. AND SOMEWHAT ASHAMED TO PRESENT MYSELF WITH SUCH A SMALL ENTOURAGE. I HAVE HAD A REVERSAL OF FORTUNE...

I BEG YOU TO EXCUSE THE PRINCE'S IMPERTINENCE, YOUR MAJESTY. HE IS NOT QUITE HIMSELF RIGHT NOW.

I KNOW. I KNOW JEROME.

YOU KNOW JEROME?

YES, GOLIATH QUITE INTIMATELY

WHO TOLD YOU MY NAME?

I WILL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING TO YOU. I KNOW EVERYTHING ABOUT YOU--YOUR PAST AND YOUR PRESENT. .

ALL YOUR THOUGHTS, FROM THE MOST INSIGNIFICANT ONES TO THE DEEPEST ONES.. IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT WE TERMITES ARE TELEPATHIC...

IS THIS A SIDE OF YOUR MUTATION AFTER THE ATOMIC BOMB EXPLODED, OR WHATEVER BOMB THAT WAS?

ALL THE MEMORIES ENGRAVED IN YOUR MIND.

NO. TERMITES HAVE ALWAYS BEEN TELEPATHIC EVER SINCE THE BEGINNING BUT MEN HAVE NEVER FOUND OUT. ..

IN ITS' LIFETIME, THE HUMAN RACE HAS NEVER TRIED TO COMMUNICATE.

IN ITS' LIFETIME?

YES, JEROME YOUR SPECIES IS BECOMING EXTINCT IT IS A NECESSARY EVIL: MEN HAVE NEVER TRIED TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER ANIMAL SPECIES...

MEN HAVE ALWAYS THOUGHT OF THEMSELVES AS THE MASTERPIECES OF CREATION THEY HAVE CORRUPTED EVERYTHING AROUND THEM THEY HAVE LOOTED THE EARTH AND THEY HAVE DESTROYED EACH OTHER..

THE LAST SURVIVORS ARE THE MOST DANGEROUS, BUT THEY ARE TOO CONDEMNED TO DISAPPEAR-- THEIR ANGER AND OBSTINACY WON'T HELP THEM SURVIVE

MEN HAVE EITHER TRIED TO DOMINATE THEM OR DESTROY THEM.

I THINK WE ARE ABOUT TO CROSS AN AREA OF PERTURBATION..

IT'S REALLY ONLY A MATTER OF TIME, AND THE EARTH IS VERY PATIENT OTHER SPECIES ARE READY TO TAKE OVER

YOU, I PRESUME?

NO, JEROME NO MATTER HOW MUCH WE'VE CHANGED, WE REMAIN TERMITES AND OUR WISH IS TO KEEP OUR PLACE AMONG ALL OF EARTH'S CREATURES

THOSE WHO WILL REPLACE YOU DO NOT EVEN HAVE A NAME YET. I DON'T KNOW IF THEY'LL BE BETTER OR WORSE RULERS THAN YOU WERE..

BUT YOU MUST HAVE SOME IDEA WHO THEY ARE ... WHO IS MAN'S WORST ENEMY?

I JUST TOLD YOU MAN'S WORST ENEMY IS.... MAN!

YOU DIDN'T NEED ANYBODY'S HELP TO HURT EACH OTHER..

ACCORDING TO OUR MAP, WE SHOULD BE VERY CLOSE TO AVIGNON..

THE CITY'S CHANGED A LOT SINCE THEIR LAST TRAVEL BROCHURE...AND IT'S GOING TO CHANGE ONCE MORE....

RELOAD THE GUNS!

SINCE YOU KNOW HOW TO READ OUR MINDS, MADAME, IT MUST NOT COME AS A SURPRISE TO YOU THAT WE ARE IN GREAT DANGER. MALIK IS PURSUING US, AND HE IS VERY CLOSE. AND HE'S IN SERIOUS TROUBLE!

YES, I'M AWARE OF THAT

HE HAS ALREADY PROVED HIS INTENT BY SLAUGHTERING THE FLY-WOMEN OF LYON, WITH WHOM WE HAD VERY CORDIAL RELATIONS..

HE'S VERY CLOSE. HERE HE IS!

BRAOOM

AND WE HAVE NO MEANS OF RESISTING HIM!

BRAAOOOOOOOM

WE CAN ONLY HOPE TO HOLD HIM BACK FOR A FEW HOURS AND GIVE YOU A SLIGHT ADVANTAGE

WE CANNOT WASTE TIME. YOU CAN ESCAPE THROUGH THIS PASSAGEWAY WHICH WILL LEAD YOU TO THE COUNTRYSIDE. YOU WILL FIND YOUR VEHICLE WAITING FOR YOU

JUST ONE MORE QUESTION, MADAME. WHY ARE YOU HELPING US AFTER ALL THE EVIL YOU'VE SUFFERED IN OUR HANDS?

THAT'S A VERY GOOD QUESTION

THE ANSWER IS HIDDEN IN NICHOLAS'S EYES.

HA! HA! HA! HA!

BAOUM

WHY ARE YOU SO CRUEL TO THEM, MY LORD?

THESE ARE NOT PEOPLE, KALI! THIS IS VERMIN!

THEY'RE TAKING A LOT OF HEAT UP THERE!

THOSE TERMITES WEREN'T SO BAD AFTER ALL

IF I WERE YOU, JEROME OF DEADWOOD, I WOULD FEEL ASHAMED OF HAVING TREATED THEM WITH SUCH CONTEMPT

YOU ARE RIGHT, GOLIATH I WILL LIGHT A CANDLE TO THEM IF WE EVER GET OUT OF HERE..

A JOB WELL DONE!

YOU ARE A MONSTER, MY LORD WILD ANIMALS DON'T BEHAVE THE WAY YOU DO EVEN THE CRUELEST AMONG THEM

YOU MUST BE SAYING THAT TO FLATTER ME, MY DEAR KALI DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, KALI, I AM MUCH WORSE THAN YOU IMAGINE. EVEN I AM SOMETIMES AFRAID OF MYSELF....

HAVING SAID THIS, WHY DON'T WE GET OFF AND TAKE A LITTLE WALK WE'LL ENJOY SEEING THE EFFECTS OF OUR FIREPOWER

THE TERMITES DIDN'T GIVE US ANY SUPPLIES...

WELL, NO ONE IS PERFECT. IF WE GET DESPERATE, WE CAN ALWAYS NOSH ON SOME SPIDERS.

WHAT I WORRY ABOUT IS WATER.

WHAT ABOUT THE HUNT, MY LORD? DID YOU FORGET JEROME?

I DON'T FORGET ANYTHING, KALI. YOU CAN TRUST ME

WE ARE NOT VERY FAR FROM THE END OF THE WORLD, AND JEROME HAS NO PLACE TO HIDE..

THERE IS A THIRD ALTERNATIVE, SIRE, AND THAT IS TO GET RID OF OUR DEAD WEIGHT..

THOUGH HE HAS BEAUTIFUL EYES, NICHOLAS IS NOTHING MORE THAN A VEGETABLE. WHEN HE'S NOT SLEEPING, HE'S DAYDREAMING. AND VIOLHAINE HASN'T SAID A WORD ALL DAY..

WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, GOLIATH? SHOULD WE GO BACK AND BE DESTROYED BY MALIK AND PUT AN END TO THIS HUNT, OR GO ON AND DIE OF THIRST SOMEWHERE?

IF WE REALLY HAD A CHOICE, I WOULD PREFER THE FIRST SOLUTION. IT'S A CLEANER AND MORE COURAGEOUS ONE

IT MUST BE BECAUSE SHE HAS NOTHING MORE TO SAY TO ME

WHO KNOWS, GOLIATH, WHAT COURAGE REALLY IS?

ALL THE MORE REASON, SIRE, TO SEPARATE OURSELVES FROM HER IF IT WERE JUST US TWO, I KNOW WE COULD SURVIVE IN THIS WORLD WITHOUT PITY.

WE FOUND THIS AMONG THE RUBBLE.

A GLOVE! WHAT DOES A TERMITE NEED A GLOVE FOR?

I SEE ONLY ONE POSSIBLE EXPLANATION, MY LORD: THIS GLOVE BELONGED TO PRINCE JEROME OR SOMEONE IN HIS GROUP.

HOW CAN YOU BE CERTAIN?

I TRUST MY INTUITION, KALI. IF JEROME WERE DEAD, I WOULD FEEL IT. I WOULD BE SO DISAPPOINTED!

DISAPPOINTED, MY LORD?

NO! JEROME HAS MANAGED TO ESCAPE ONCE AGAIN. IT'S BECOMING AN OBSESSION...

JEROME MUST HAVE BEEN HERE. HIS BODY IS BURIED UNDER THE RUINS. OUR HUNT IS OVER!

YES. NOT TO HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TORTURE HIM, SLOWLY, DELICATELY, AS ONLY I KNOW HOW...

HE'S STILL ALIVE, KALI. AND HE'S THUMBING HIS NOSE AT ME BUT I'M IN NO HURRY . I'LL FIND HIM EVENTUALLY....

WHEN JEROME DIES, WHO WILL I HUNT WITH THE SAME AMOUNT OF PLEASURE?

I DON'T WANT TO HEAR ABOUT THIS ANYMORE, GOLIATH! WE ESCAPED TOGETHER AND WE WILL STAY TOGETHER AND WE'LL TRAVEL TO THE END OF THE EARTH TO MAKE NICHOLAS'S DREAM COME TRUE!

BAUX

IT SEEMS THAT THE SEA IS LIKE A GREEN PRAIRIE..

IT'S EXISTENCE IS PURELY HYPOTHETICAL, PRINCE. A RELIEF TO OUR DESPERATION...

YOU'RE RIGHT, GOLIATH. OUR ONLY HOPE IS TO KEEP GOING EVEN WHEN IT SEEMS CRAZY TO DO SO.

IF THERE REALLY IS SUCH A QUANTITY OF WATER SOMEWHERE, WE WILL BE ABLE TO WASH AWAY EVEN OUR SINS...

HA! HA! HA! HA! HA!

WHAT A PICTURESQUE SPOT!

YOU'RE RIGHT! I'D LIKE TO BUY A PIECE OF LAND HERE FOR MY RETIREMENT!

WHAT A LOVELY IDEA! AND WHAT WONDERFUL NEIGHBORS YOU WOULD HAVE!

OFF TWIST

ES BAUX

CRUNCH

FULL STOP!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND! THE UNIVERSE SHOULD END RIGHT HERE. IT SAYS SO ON MY MAP!

IT MUST BE A MISTAKE

I'M AFRAID, MY LORD, THAT YOUR MAP MAY DIFFER SOMEWHAT FROM THE ACTUAL REALITY OF THE ANCIENT WORLD. WE SHOULD CONSULT OTHER MAPS.

I DON'T HAVE ANY.

FROM THIS POINT ON WE ENTER THE UNKNOWN. ALWAYS FULL OF DANGER! IT'D BE MORE PRUDENT TO TURN BACK...

BAH! WE HAVE A FULL TANK OF GAS AND QUITE A FEW SUPPLIES...

WE WILL GO BACK TO DEADMOON ONLY AFTER WE HAVE CAPTURED OUR PREY

WE WILL KEEP HEADING SOUTH!

AREN'T YOU SCARED OF ME?

WELL MADAME (OR IS IT MISS), YOU MUST KNOW THAT THINGS BEING WHAT THEY ARE....

CHECKMATE, LORD...

KALI, HOW MANY TIMES MUST I TELL YOU THAT I HATE TO LOSE?

BUT IT'S ONLY A GAME...

MY LORD, OUR FUEL GAUGE IS FALLING RAPIDLY!

THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE, MOUSE.

PLEASE LOOK AT IT, MY LORD.

HAVE YOU, LIKE THE TERMITES, BECOME TELEPATHIC?

ALAS, NO. BUT WE HAVE OTHER POWERS...

WE ARE CLAIRVOYANT. AND OUR GIFT HELPS US SURVIVE...

WHAT'S WRONG?

THERE WAS A LEAK IN MY TANK, MY LORD. I MANAGED TO FIX IT BUT WE LOST THREE QUARTERS OF OUR FUEL

WE MAY HAVE ENOUGH FUEL TO REACH THE LAST GAS STATION WE PASSED ON OUR WAY HERE....

WE DON'T HAVE A CHOICE, MY LORD. WE HAVE TO GIVE UP THE HUNT!

THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION!

FULL SPEED AHEAD!

HA! HA! HA!

WE WON'T EAT YOU BE-CAUSE WE ADMIRE YOUR LITTLE BOY, NICHOLAS...

HE SEEMS TO BE HOVER-ING BETWEEN TWO WORLDS. IT'S ALMOST AS IF HIS FEET ARE NOT TOUCHING THE GROUND. HE APPEARS TO HAVE NO SHADOW, OR RATHER, HIS SHADOW IS MADE OF LIGHT.

HIS SMILES FILL US WITH FEAR BECAUSE WE SENSE IN HIM IN-HUMAN STRENGTH ...HE IS INDESTRUCTIBLE!

HIS HEAD IS LIKE A SHELL, CLOSED IN ON ITSELF, YET GENEROUS WITH ITS TREASURES. ONE HAS TO HAVE THE COURAGE TO LOOK INTO HIS EYES ...

IN NICHOLAS'S EYES I CAN SEE FRIGATES DANCING IN THE WAVES, THEIR MASTS, AS MAS-SIVE AS TREES, BENDING UNDER THE PRESSURE OF THEIR WIND-FILLED SAILS....

I SEE THEIR BOWS PIERCING THE FOAMING SPACE IN FRONT OF THEM. THEIR SAILORS ARE HALF-CRAZED BY LIQUID FIRE, THEIR HEART DEVOURED BY WANDERLUST....

IN NICHOLAS'S EYES I HAVE FOUND A SPACE THAT IS MAGIC AND THE SPLEND-ORS OF A STORM FUSED IN FORM AND COLOR....

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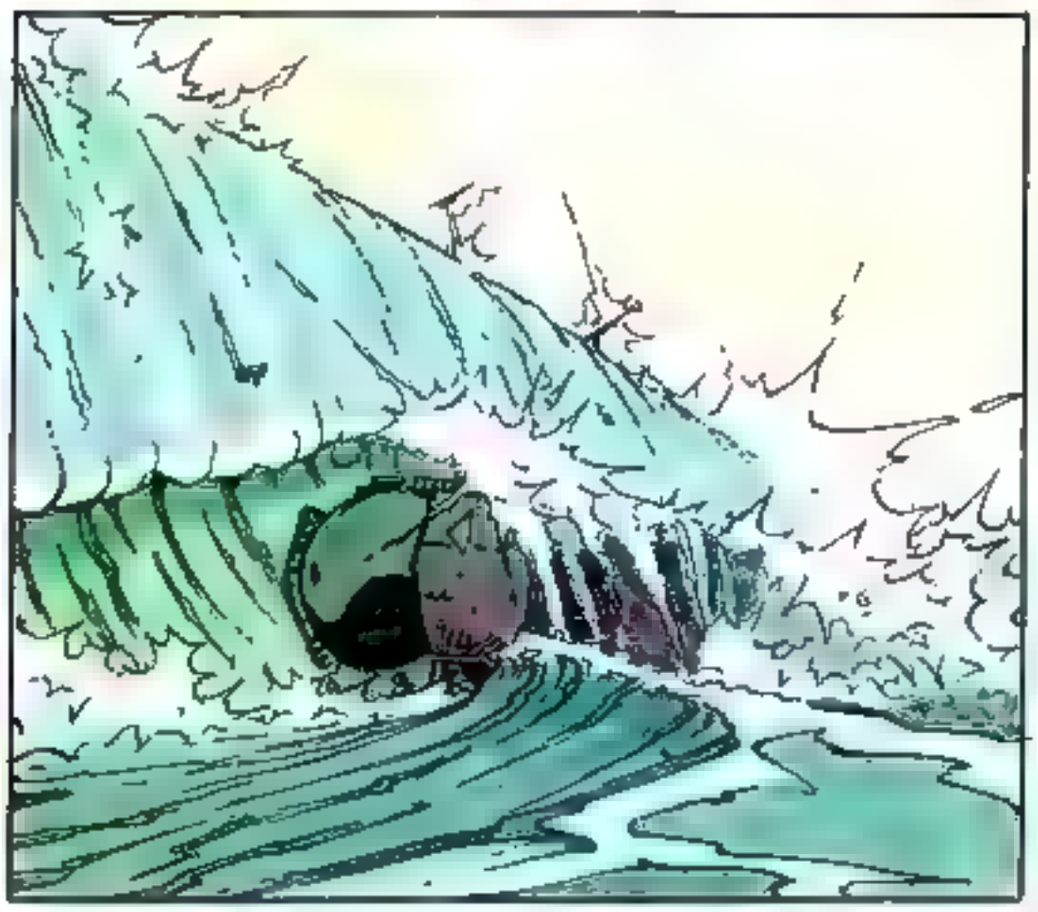
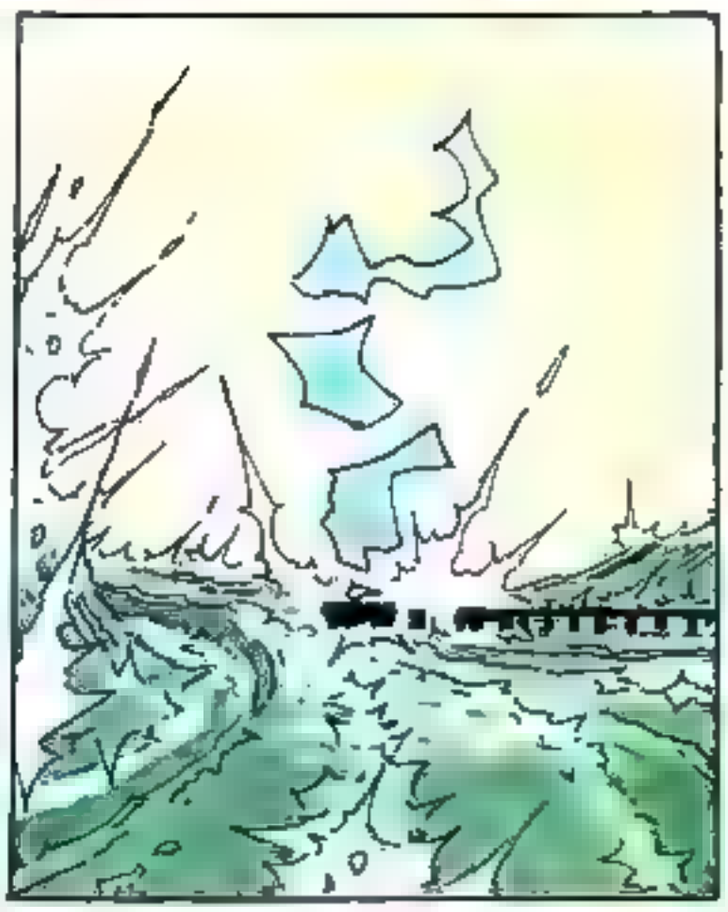
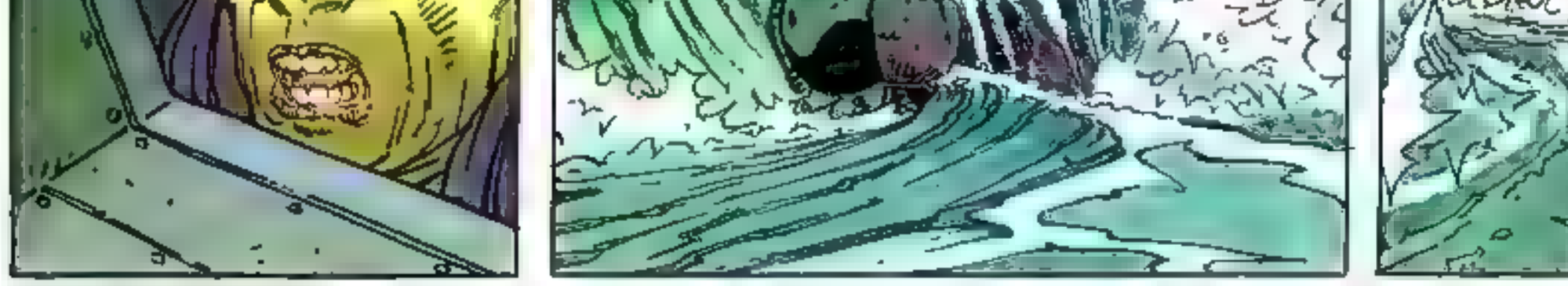
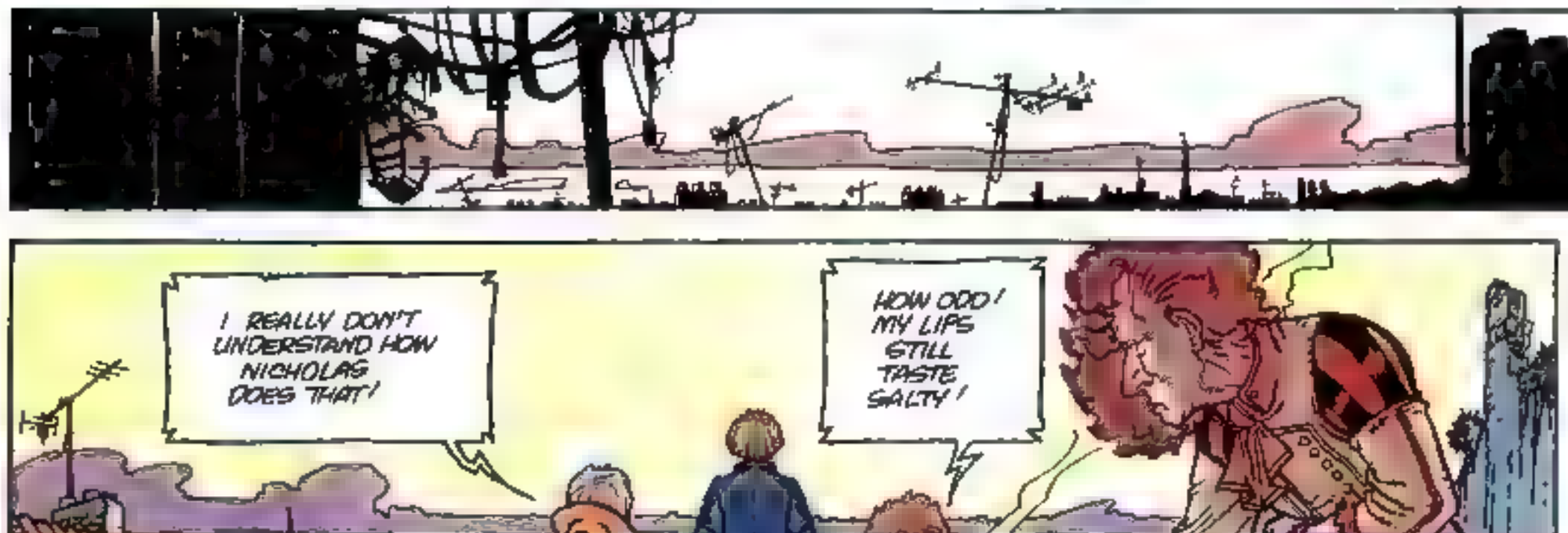





I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW NICHOLAS DOES THAT!
HOW ODD! MY LIPS STILL TASTE SALTY!

CAN SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT JUST HAPPENED? WHERE DID ALL THAT WATER COME FROM? WHERE DID IT GO?


WHEN I WAS BORN, VIOLAINE, 107 YEARS AGO, THE OCEANS STILL COVERED OVER HALF THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH. THAT WAS A LOT OF WATER . TRILLIONS OF GALLONS.
THERE MUST BE A FEW DROPS LEFT AND WE WILL FIND THEM .

I THINK IT WAS AN ILLUSION, MY LORD, A CHIMERA ...

THIS CHIMERA REMINDS ME OF SOMETHING...

DO YOU REMEMBER, MY LORD NOT SO LONG AGO, VIOLHAINE'S YOUNGER BROTHER FELL INTO SOME SORT OF MYSTICAL TRANCE AND THE RESULT WAS A SIMILAR PHENOMENON

WHICH CLEARLY MEANS THAT MY COUSIN JEROME AND HIS FRIENDS ARE HERE, WITHIN ARM'S REACH.

IT'S VERY KIND OF YOU TO SHARE YOUR LEFTOVERS WITH US! THIS MAY NOT BE AS GOOD AS THE LOBSTERS IN NICHOLAS'S OCEAN, BUT AS THE OLD SAYING GOES: WASTE NOT WANT NOT.'

IS THAT HOW THE SAYING GOES?

ISN'T IT RATHER: 'HAVE NOT, WASTE NOT'?

OH, DON'T QUIBBLE WITH ME, PRINCE. AND ANYWAY, WE HAVE NOTHING....

POU!

SHIT! WHAT'S GOING ON?

CRA!

??!!!???

CONTINUED ON PAGE 86

# the ceremony

YOU SEEM SURPRISED, MRS CAMELLI I THOUGHT YOU'D BEEN WARNED OF MY IMPENDING VISIT

YES, BUT I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO SEE YOU IN VENICE

YES, BUT I DECIDED TO MAKE THE TRIP WITH YOU IN ORDER TO DISCUSS A FEW DETAILS

ANYWAY, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT AS LONG AS YOU ARE INNOCENT THIS VISIT IS JUST A FORMALITY

I'VE ALREADY TOLD EVERYBODY THAT I'VE RETIRED.

OF COURSE, OF COURSE THERE IS NO INQUISITION THESE DAYS. BUT THEY STILL REQUIRE WE CHECK YOU OUT THEY'RE QUITE JUSTIFIED, GIVEN YOUR PAST, DON'T YOU AGREE?

NO ONE IS ACCUSING YOU OF BEING A WITCH... BUT YOU MUST ADMIT THAT YOU'VE BEEN ONE YOU, MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, CANNOT DENY THAT WITCHES EXIST AND THAT THEY ARE VERY DANGEROUS. YOU CANNOT REFUSE TO COMPLY WITH THIS FORMALITY, ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE INNOCENT..

YEAH YEAH..

I HAVE ALREADY TOLD YOU REVEREND FATHER

I AM ONLY AN EXORCIST, NOT AN INQUISITOR. I FOLLOW TIME PROVEN METHODS, BUT WILL NOT USE TORTURE TO ACHIEVE MY ENDS WITCH HUNTS HAVE BEGUN AGAIN IN THOSE PLACES WHERE UNEXPECTED CHANGES IN THE CLIMATE HAVE SOWED PANIC AMONG THE INHABITANTS THE VILEST OF ALL THE WITCHES' TRICKS HAS BEEN TO INVOKE DESTRUCTIVE STORMS HAVE YOU EVER DONE THAT?

HEAVENS! WHAT A DELIGHTFUL AND RARE CONVERSATION!

WHAT DOES THIS ROUTINE CHECK CONSIST OF EXACTLY? CAN YOU TELL ME?

!

HAVE YOU EVER PARTICIPATED IN THIS, *hmmm*, RITUAL CEREMONY? TELL ME THE TRUTH!

NO! I HAVE NEVER KISSED THE DEVIL'S ARSE, IF THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW!

DO NOT HESITATE TO TELL ME YOUR SLIGHTEST THOUGHT! I'm ON YOUR SIDE

*osculum obscoenum* *

* *the obscene kiss*

AS FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, ALL I HAVE TO DO IS LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY AND, USING THE APPROPRIATE INSTRUMENTS, MAKE SURE THAT YOU DO NOT HAVE THE DEVIL'S MARK ON YOUR BODY. I WOULD LIKE TO AVOID THE TEST BY "IMMERSION"... EVEN THOUGH "THEY" STILL THINK IT IS A NECESSARY ONE

SHIT! THIS IS AMAZING! WITH A LITTLE LUCK I CAN SET UP A FABULOUS "CANDID CAMERA!" I'LL START WORKING ON IT RIGHT AWAY!

THE IMMERSION TEST IS THE ONLY FOOLPROOF WAY TO IDENTIFY A WITCH. ON THE OTHER HAND, IT IS ALSO THE MOST HUMILIATING, SINCE IT HAS TO TAKE PLACE IN PUBLIC.

PLEASE DON'T INSIST, REVEREND. I WILL NOT DO IT!

YOU SEE? IT IS NOT APPROPRIATE TO A LADY, ESPECIALLY DURING SUCH A COLD WINTER AS THIS ONE

YES, DO EXACTLY AS I SAY! COME, WAKE UP!

I HOPE SHE UNDERSTOOD ME!

I DON'T THINK THE IMMERSION TEST WILL BE NECESSARY AFTER ALL... I WILL ANSWER FOR IT

FIRST OF ALL, PLEASE SIGN THIS DECLARATION OF INNOCENCE, MRS. CAMELLI. THEN WE CAN PROCEED TO THE HOTEL FOR THE TEST

MARTA CAMELLI! DO YOU RECOGNIZE ME?

MAYBE THIS WILL JOG YOUR MEMORY!! ALL THOSE TIMES YOU KISSED IT DURING THE WITCHES' SABBATHS! HA, HA!

NOW THE IMMERSION TEST IS UNAVOIDABLE!

NO NO... HAVE MERCY

PLEASE HAVE PITY.. I DON'T FEEL WELL

THERE IS NO OTHER OPTION YOU MUST BE STRONG, MRS CAMELLI. NEITHER YOU NOR I CAN AVOID THIS SACRED RITUAL..

IS THE BOAT READY? YES, YES, I WILL LET YOU KNOW WHERE.

THERE THEY ARE! START SHOOTING RIGHT AWAY...

TAKE OFF YOUR CLOTHES, MARTA CAMELLI.

HEL, HELOIM, HELOA, EHEIE, EHETRAGRAMATIN, ADONAI..

HAVE MERCY, FATHER, I AM FREEZING!

...SADAI, SABAOTH SOTHER...

..EMANUEL, ALPHA ET OMEGA, PRIMUS ET NOVISSIMUS.. *

...PRINCIPIUM ET FINIS, AGIOS, YSHIROS, OTHEOS, ATHANATOS, AGLA JEHOVA, HOMOUSIOS...

*INVOCATIONS AND PRAYERS TO GOD IN HEBREW, GREEK AND LATIN...

...YA MESSIAS, ESERCHEYE, CHRISTUS VINCIT..

CHRISTUS REGNAT, CHRISTUS IMPERAT...

INCREATUS PETER...

...INCREATUS FILIUS, INCREATUS SPIRITUS SANCTUS...

PER SIGNUM CRUCIS DE INIMICIS NOSTRIS...

...LIBERA NOS, DEUS NOSTER...

DO NOT TOUCH ME WOMAN, DO NOT LEAN ON ME! YOU MUST WALK ALONE, IN FRONT OF ME!

I AM VERY COLD, REVEREND FATHER, AND I DON'T FEEL WELL...

HEAVENS! SHE IS AS NAKED AS THE DAY SHE WAS BORN!

WOW! WHAT A STORY!

RAISE YOUR HEAD AND UNCOVER YOUR GENITALS, MARTA CAMELLI, IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO BE FOUND GUILTY EVEN BEFORE YOUR TRIAL

WHAT'S THAT ON THE GROUND? IS THAT THE DEVIL EXITING YOUR BODY THROUGH YOUR INCONTINENCE?

NO IT'S THE COLD. I HAVE TO GET DRESSED AGAIN..

YOU'LL GET DRESSED AFTER YOUR IMMERSION GET IN THE WATER, MARTA CAMELLI. I ORDER YOU TO DO SO!

WHAT THE HELL'S GOING ON HERE?

GET IN THE WATER, MARTA CAMELLI! PROVE TO US THAT YOU ARE NOT A WITCH OBEY!

A WITCH? THAT GUY IS BONKERS!

YOU ARE ALL WITNESSES. THIS MAN WANTS TO SEE ME FREEZE TO DEATH

YOU CANNOT SINK, MARTA CAMELLI, BECAUSE YOU ARE A WITCH

SINCE YOU DIDN'T SINK UNDER THE WATERS I'LL HAVE TO SHAVE YOUR ENTIRE BODY TO FIND THE "SIGNUM DIABOLI"*

NEVER! SOMEONE WILL DEFEND ME!

NO ONE CAN HELP YOU EXCEPT THE DEVIL HIMSELF!

* THE DEVIL'S MARK

ENOUGH! THIS MAY BE A CARNIVAL JOKE IN BAD TASTE, BUT THIS WOMAN WILL COME DOWN WITH PNEUMONIA SOON AND FURTHERMORE, THE WATER IN THE CANALS IN VENICE IS NO PLACE TO SWIM IN. HELP HER GET OUT AND GET DRESSED RIGHT AWAY!

DON'T GET INVOLVED UNLESS YOU WANT TO BE CONSIDERED HER ACCOMPLICE. THIS WITCH, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, HAS BEEN ACCUSED OF CAUSING EXTREME CLIMATIC DISRUPTIONS AND DEVASTATING STORMS IN NORTHERN EUROPE. IT IS MY SACRED DUTY TO EXPOSE HER AND MAKE SURE HER INFAMOUS TRICKS WILL NEVER BE REPEATED.

ALL OF YOU, LOOK AT THAT WOMAN! SHE DOES NOT SINK! THAT IS UNDENIABLE PROOF THAT SHE IS A WITCH!

WELL, I AGREE THAT THE CLIMATE HAS BEEN UNSTABLE RECENTLY. BUT WHETHER OR NOT TO ATTRIBUTE THAT TO WITCHES, I DON'T KNOW...

COME ON, THAT'S IT. GET THAT WOMAN DRESSED AND CALL THE POLICE. THIS IS SHAMEFUL!

VARIATIONS IN OUR CLIMATE ARE CAUSED BY POLLUTION, DEFORESTATION, NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND MANY OTHER SUCH THINGS BUT CERTAINLY NOT BY WITCHES!

FURTHERMORE, THE REASON THIS WOMAN IS NOT SINKING IS THAT THERE'S VERY LITTLE WATER LEFT IN THESE CANALS, PRECISELY BECAUSE OF THOSE CHANGES IN OUR CLIMATE

I TOLD YOU TO MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS! THIS WOMAN HAG MADE AN OBSCENE PACT WITH THE DEVIL!

HA HA! DO YOU WANT TO MEET THE DEVIL? HEY, SAL, COME OUT AND SHOW YOURSELF!

HERE IS YOUR DEVIL! TODAY IS THE LAST DAY OF THE CARNIVAL, AND THERE ARE MORE DEVILS IN VENICE THAN IN DANTE'S HELL!

DO YOU REALLY THINK THE DEVIL LOOKS LIKE THAT?

MAYBE YOU'LL RECOGNIZE ME BETTER FROM THIS SIDE, YOU CRAZY OLD MAN!

WHAT IS GOING ON? IS THERE NO ONE HERE MAN ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM STOP? WE'VE HAD ENOUGH OBSCENITY! SOMEONE MUST TEACH THESE DEGENERATES A LESSON!

LET'S GET THEM!

COME ON!

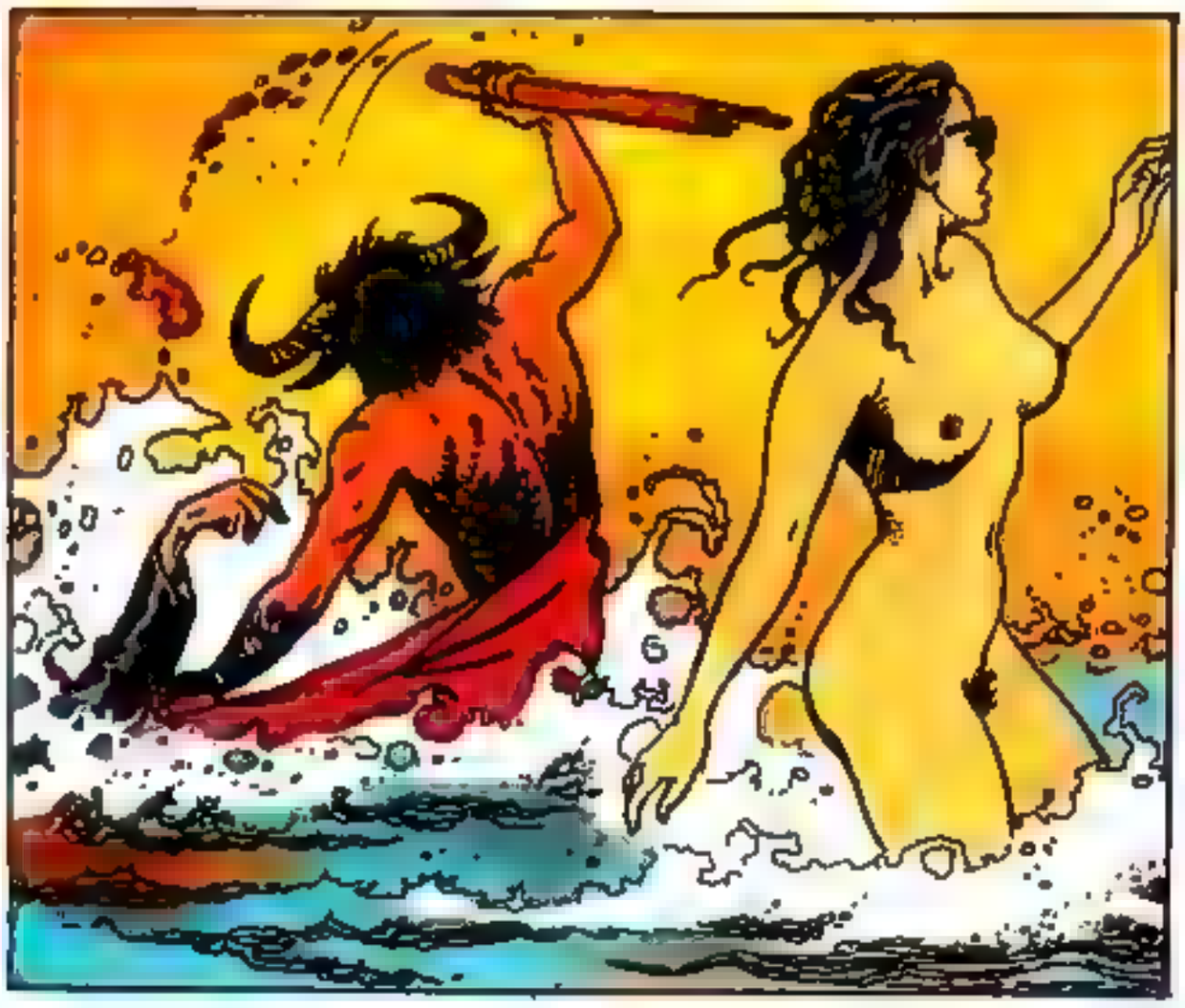
WE'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON!

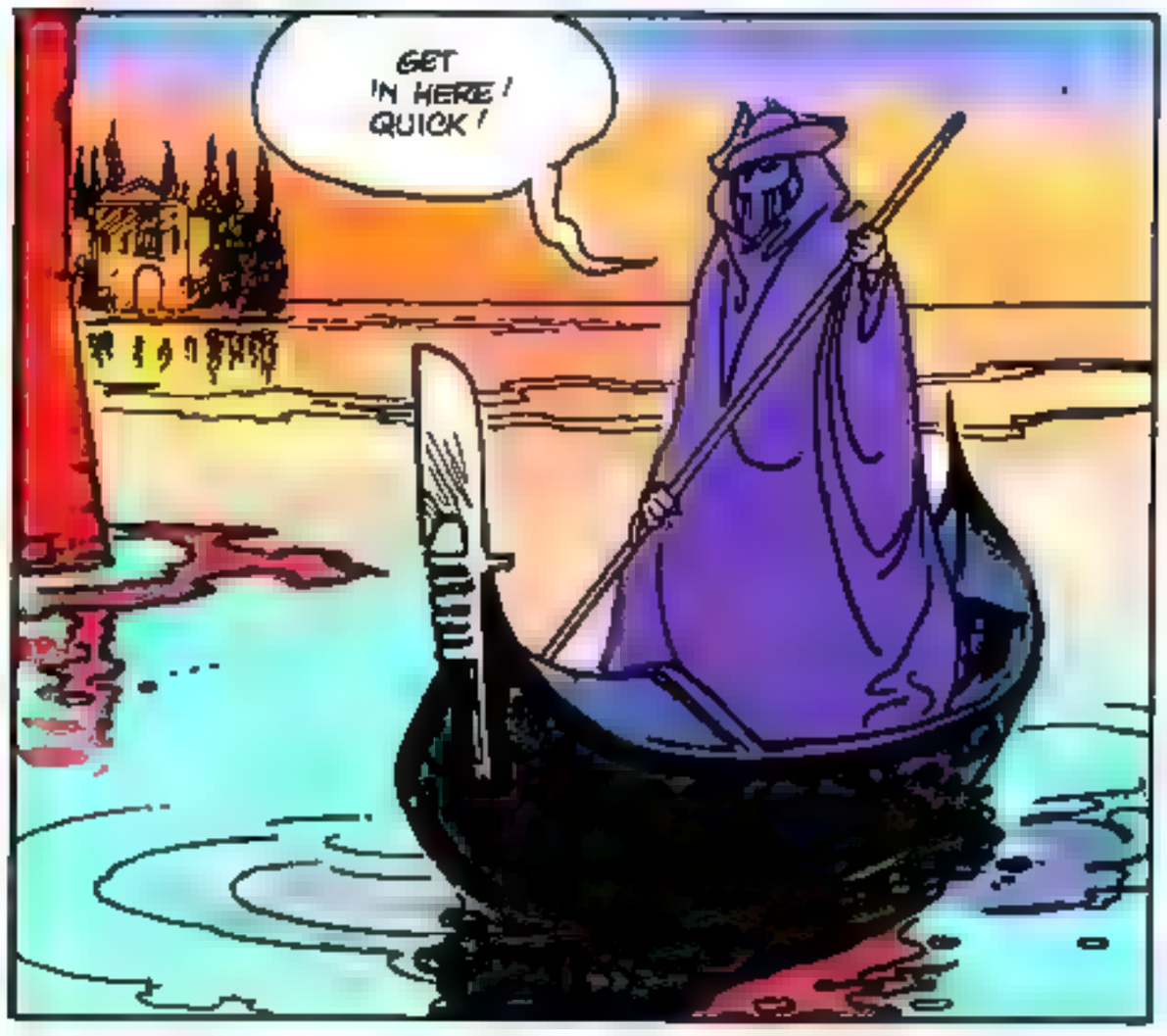
HURRY! CLIMB IN THE BOAT!

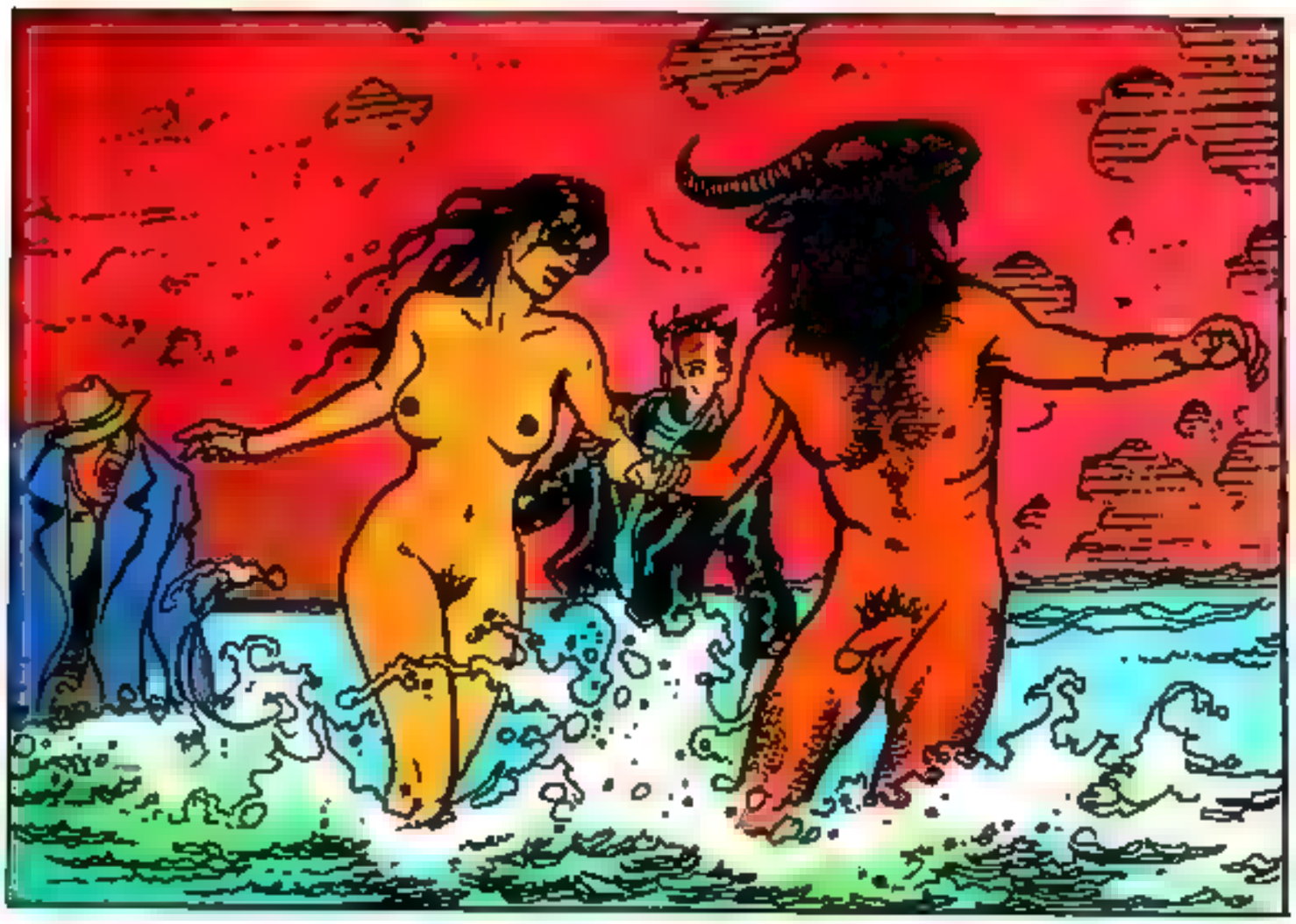
NO! HER WEIGHT IS MAKING THE BOAT SCRAPE BOTTOM! WE ARE GOING TO BE ATTACKED!

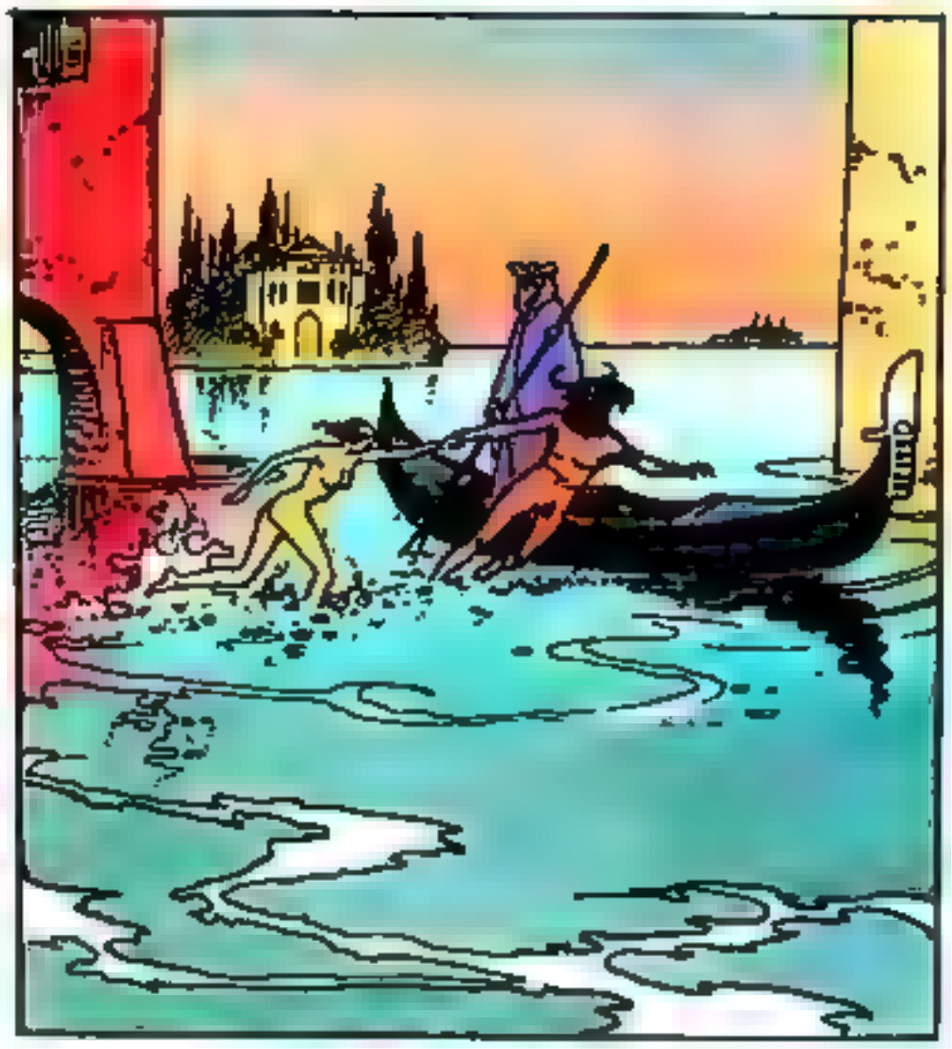
LET HER GO!

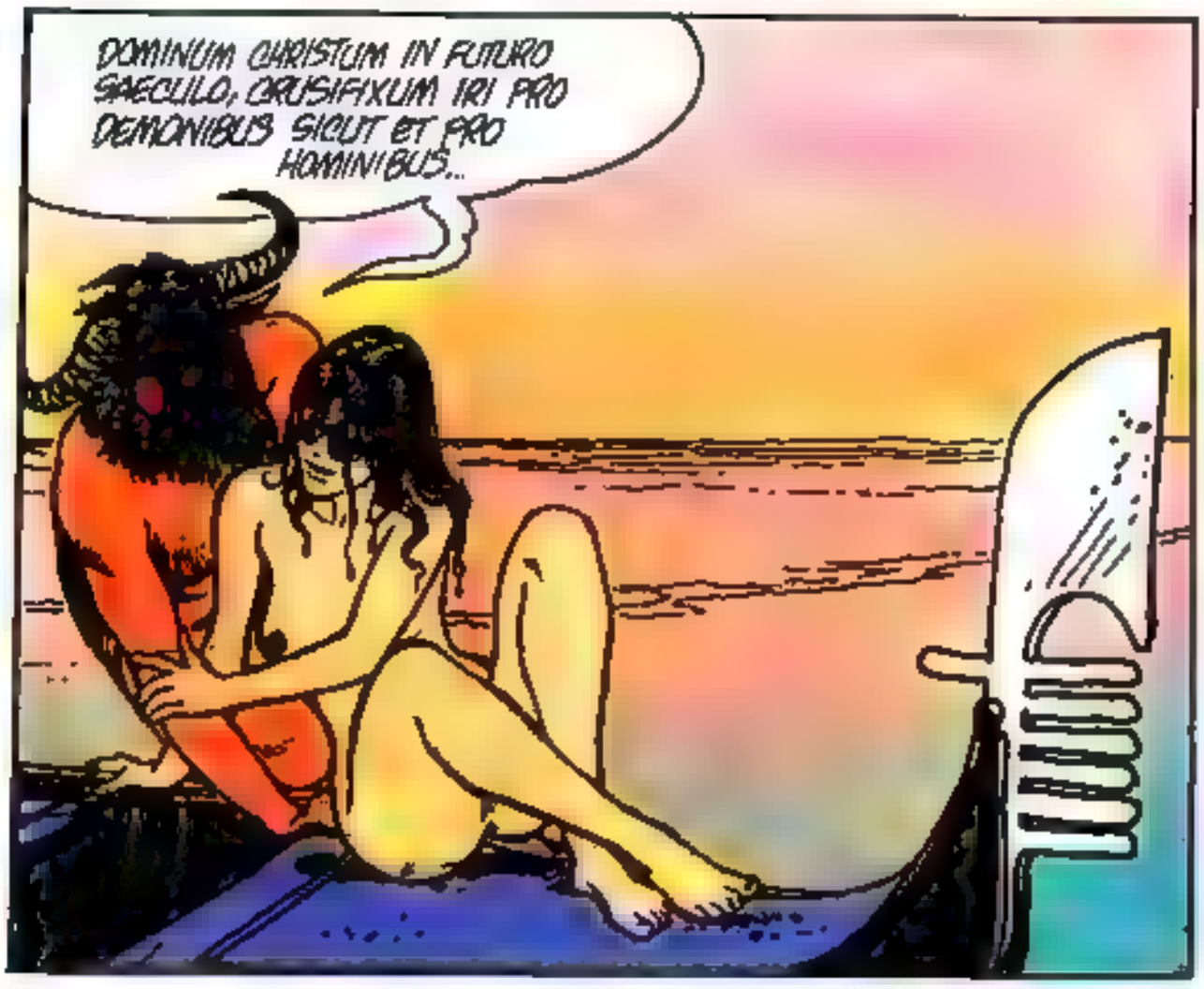
I'M TELLING YOU TO LET HER GO!




GET IN HERE! QUICK!






DOMINUM CHRISTUM IN FUTURO SAECULO, CRUSIFIXUM IRI PRO DEMONIBUS SICUT ET PRO HOMINIBUS...

IN OMNI OPERA BONO NON NOS INCIPIMUS.

YOU AGAIN! YOU'D BETTER GO NOW BUT THANK YOU FOR THE JACKET AND FOR EVERYTHING

THIS IS A SACRED RITUAL NO ONE CAN ATTEND

BUT WE MUST SHOOT SOMETHING ELSE FOR OUR "CANDID CAMERA" SEGMENT!

AFTER ALL, WITHOUT OUR HELP, YOU WOULD STILL BE IN THE HANDS OF THOSE HOODLUMS....

ALL RIGHT ONLY THE GIRL CAN COME IN GIVE HER THE CAMERA

WHAT KIND OF CEREMONY IS IT? IS IT A RELIGIOUS EVENT?

THAT EXORCIST WAS RIGHT I AM A WITCH. BUT WITCHES DON'T ALWAYS BRING ABOUT EVIL. WE HAVE COME TOGETHER HERE ON THIS ISLAND TO INVOKE THE RAIN WE ARE ALL YEARNING FOR THE RAM WILL FIGHT WITH THE JACKASS AND EACH WILL TRY TO MAKE THE OTHER SHOOT HIS SEMEN THE ONE WHO MANAGES NOT TO WASTE HIS SEMEN WILL GIVE IT TO US AND WE WILL TRANSFORM IT INTO RAIN OR STORM, DEPENDING ON WHO IS THE WINNER.

I THOUGHT THAT GUY WAS CRAZY, BUT I SEE THAT YOU ARE EVEN MORE SO!

IF HONEY DOES A GOOD JOB, WE'LL BE ABLE TO FOLLOW THE ENTIRE EVENT ON THIS MONITOR.

YOU MUST HIDE BACK HERE AND MAKE SURE NO ONE SEES YOU.

THERE ARE ONLY WOMEN HERE!

NOT ALL ARE WOMEN!

AH! THERE'S THE JACKASS!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT'S GOING ON BUT LET'S SEE WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN..

THE PICTURE IS PRETTY GOOD

YEAH! BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

THEY SEEM TO BE FIGHTING, BUT SOMETHING'S STRANGE..

SHIT! THE SCREEN HAS GONE BLANK! I CAN'T SEE A THING!

I BET YOU CAN'T! THERE IS HONEY WITH THE CAMERA!

LISTEN, THIS IS A BIG JOKE. THOSE CRAZY WOMEN IN THERE ARE NOT PARTICIPATING IN ANY RITUAL! THEY ARE JUST HAVING FUN LOOKING AT THE TWO GUYS WHO ARE TRYING TO. I'M LEAVING!

WELL, WELL... WHAT HAVE WE HERE!

IT'S RAINING!

HEAVENS!

THE END

# THE EVIDENCE

I ASSURE YOU THAT THE EVIDENCE YOU WILL FIND HERE MAY CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY, SOLDIER! WE MUST DESTROY IT!

© Controlled by NORMA

"THE TEMPLE EMERGES FROM THE WATERS ONCE EVERY THOUSAND YEARS. IT IS PROTECTED BY A GUARD WHOSE WEAPONS ARE MORE EVOLVED THAN OURS AND THEREFORE IS ALMOST INVINCIBLE. OUR EXPLOSIVE MISSILE, HOWEVER, IS TECHNOLOGICALLY TWO CENTURIES AHEAD OF ITS TIME, SO WE HAVE SOME HOPE!"

"THIS IS A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY AND WE MUST TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. THE GOLDEN WARRIOR MAY BE IMMORTAL, BUT IF YOU FOLLOW YOUR INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY, YOU WON'T HAVE ANY PROBLEMS."

Here he comes!

CLAK!

STANG!

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE IF WHAT THE LAND DESCRIBED WILL ACTUALLY HAPPEN

RUN AWAY!.. IT'S THE BEST YOU CAN HOPE TO DO..

HE'S CERTAINLY NOT MADE OF FLESH AND BLOOD...

BOUM!!

"YOU WILL FIND A FISSURE AND INTO THAT YOU MUST INSERT YOUR SWORD..."

"ONCE INSIDE YOU WILL FIND A CHALICE. THE EVIDENCE IS INSIDE IT. YOU MUST DESTROY IT IMMEDIATELY AND FLEE... THE TEMPLE WILL BEGIN SINKING AGAIN IN A VERY SHORT TIME..."

I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THIS "EVIDENCE" MAY BE...

WHAT? ALL THAT FUSS JUST FOR THIS?

..."WE WILL HAVE DESTROYED THE LAST SHRED OF EVIDENCE OF THE PRESENCE OF EXTRATERRESTRIALS ON OUR PLANET."

EPILOGUE: THE STORY HAS TAKEN UP THE SIX PAGES ALLOTTED TO IT. THE MERCENARY SOLDIER HAS GONE BACK TO HIS HIMALAYAN PEAK.. BUT, THANKFULLY, YOUR EDITOR WOULD LIKE YOU TO KNOW THE END OF THIS TALE.

THE TEMPLE WILL VANISH IN A FEW SECONDS...

ONE THOUSAND MORE YEARS WITHOUT SEEING THE LIGHT OF DAY!

BUT WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON?

SOMETHING TOTALLY UNEXPECTED IS HAPPENING...

THOSE RAYS OF LIGHT.. JUST LIKE IN THE PICTURE I DESTROYED!
SO MUCH FOR THE LAMA'S PREDICTIONS AND HIS MONK'S ABILITY TO DECIPHER ANCIENT TEXTS! THEY HAVEN'T A CLUE AS TO WHAT THEY ARE DOING AND WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?

IT'S RISING....

IT'S INCREDIBLE!

THE MERCENARY SOLDIER MUST HAVE SET OFF THE MECHANISM THAT PRODUCED THE MISSILE LAUNCH. ALAS, THE SPACESHIP DEPARTED EMPTY AND WE WILL NEVER KNOW WHO OR WHAT IT WAS WAITING FOR ... MAYBE THE MONKS ON THE HIMALAYAN PEAK KNOW MORE THAN THEY LET ON . MAYBE OUR HERO KNOWS MORE THAN THEY DO . OR MAYBE OUR HERO WAS USED BY FORCES UNKNOWN TO US FOR A PURPOSE THAT WE WILL NEVER DISCOVER...

# ALIEN METAPHOR

THERE'S MORE HONEY

CHEF BOYARDEE AGAIN. THANKS MOM, I LOVE CHEF BOYARDEE

THERE'S ALWAYS MORE YOU SERVE ME DINNER, THEN ALWAYS SAY THERE'S MORE.

LOVE YOU, MOM.

ALERT

IF YOU LOVE ME, YOU MUST PROMISE TO NEVER AID THE ALIENS. NO MATTER WHAT YOUR FATHER SAYS

BUT YOU'VE GOT TO PROMISE TO ALWAYS FIX ME CHEF BOYARDEE

OKAY, MOM

I PROMISE.

FIRST MAN IN SPACE FIRST MAN ON THE MOON.

REMEMBER THE BIRTHDAYS OF JOHN GLENN AND NEIL ARMSTRONG.

S CUNNINGHAM 1992

THE SUN BURNS HALLOWEEN ORANGE OVER THE MYTHICAL CITY OF SALFORD AND JUST FOR A MOMENT, ALL THE TRAFFIC LIGHTS TURN GREEN.

THE STREETS ARE LINED WITH DISCARDED CARNIVAL FLOATS, AND CAR ALARMS SHRIEK LIKE EXOTIC BIRDS IN HEAT.

VUMP VUMP VUMP

MEEP MEEP MEEP ME

PIOOW PIOOW PIOO

LIFE IS STATIC AND IT SURE FEELS FINE FOR ...

LET'S PAINT THIS TOWN CERISE!!

# RANX THE SECTION

THERE WAS A CROOKED MAN ...

©

AIDAN POTTS-TAIWAN
IAN CARNEY— HONG KONG

RANDY! RANDY!
WHAT YOU DOIN?
WHERE YOU GOIN?
JUST HAVING A DRINK.
JUST HAVING A SMOKE.
CARE TO JOIN ME, LITTLE ORPHAN CHILDREN?
NAH WE DON'T DRINK ON AN EMPTY STOMACH.
. AND US ORPHANS ALWAYS GO HUNGRY
SUIT YOURSELF YOU ORPHANS ARE NO JOY!
I REMEMBER WHEN I WAS YOUR AGE...
I'D DRINK AND DRINK AND THEN VOMIT ON THE LIBRARY STEPS
IT WAS A REJECTION OF THE STRUCTURES OF ALEXANDRIA THROUGH THE EXCESSES OF HEDONISM
YOU'RE WEIRD
JUST A MINUTE. CAN YOU HEAR THAT?
DEE DEE DADA DUM DU DUM DADADUH DADADADADUH

SUREEE

IT'S THE -SCREAM VAN"

HEL.O RANDY , KIDS

HELLO, MISTER KIMIC WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TODAY ?

WE'VE GOT SIMILIES AND METAPHORS PATHOS AND INTENT PHONETICS AND NASALISED DIPTHONGS .

BUT 'M AFRAID THE ANTONYMS ARE OFF

I THINK I'LL HAVE..

FAMILY RIPPLE

HEY WE WERE HERE FIRST CANCER BREATH !

YES, BUT YOU'RE ORPHANS. YOU'VE GOT NO MONEY

I'L. HAVE A M XED METAPHOR W.TH A FLAKE IN IT !!!

CHILL

LATER

..THAT WAS SMASH NG !!

ERUCT

stump

YOU DON'T SUPPOSE, MISTER SKELETON, YOU COULD SPARE A FEW PENNIES FOR SOME HUNGRY ORPHANS?

SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T ?

HOLD THAT THOUGHT! KEEP IT WARM!

SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I?

BOB CRAZED AT BURGLAR

I'M OUT OF HERE!!

VRRRRRMMM

VRRRRRMMM

SHOULD

DOWN AT THE "IMPERIAL BARCODE WORKS"

IMPERIAL

DAD.

HIYA HOWL N' WOLF*

* RANDY HAS LONG SINCE FORGOTTEN HIS SON'S NAME AND SO CALLS HIM BY THE NAMES OF HIS FAVOURITE MUSICIANS

I WAS THINKING OF ARRANGING A SURPRISE PARTY FOR MYSELF.

M

UM

UDUM

GUDUM

GDUM GUDUM

GDUM GUDDUM

GDUM GUDDUM

GDUM GUDDUM

... AND WONDERED IF YOU WANTED TO COME?

LOOK DAD, THERE'S MORE TO LIFE THAN PARTIES! THERE'S THE SKILL OF THE CRAFTSMAN HAND PAINTING BARCODES IS AN ART THAT'S ALL BUT FORGOTTEN IN THIS DAY AND AGE

JUST ASK NG

I'M GONE

BUT DAD..

. THERE'S SOMETHING NEED TO TELL YOU.

RANDY MEETS HIS PAL .... FAMED BLUES MUSICIAN, **JOLLY ROGER !!**

COMMUNICATING THROUGH STREET THEATRE, ROGER TELLS OF HIS RECENT TOUR OF EASTERN EUROPE

RANDY USES HIS JESUS COMPASS TO FIND

HE REMEMBERS A DREAM HE ONCE HAD

WHERE HE HAD A WIFE AND A HOUSE AND A DOG AND A LITTLE BOY

AND HE WORKED HARD AND HE ONLY SMOKED JOINTS AT CHRISTMAS AND AT PARTIES AND [illegible]

AS HE RECALLS THE CITY SHIFTS

THE BUILDINGS TWIST

AND SUNLIGHT DANCES FROM THE WINDOWS

DREAMS ARE DREAMS BUT NOTHING COMPARES TO THE BEAUTY OF CLEAN LIGHT ON DIRTY GLASS

SMIF

RANDY HITCHES A RIDE FROM SOME PASSING SEAGULLS

DROPPING HIM OFF THREE MILES NORTH OF THE AQUARIUMS

THANKS FOR THE LIFT CHAPS....

BY THE WAY DO BIRDS WISH THEY HAD FINGERS?

NO BUT WE WANT TO BE ABLE TO FLY FALING UPWARDS!

SOMETHING CATCHES RANDY'S EYE

WHAT'S THIS??

IT'S A BOUND PADLOCK..

WITHOUT IT'S KEY!!

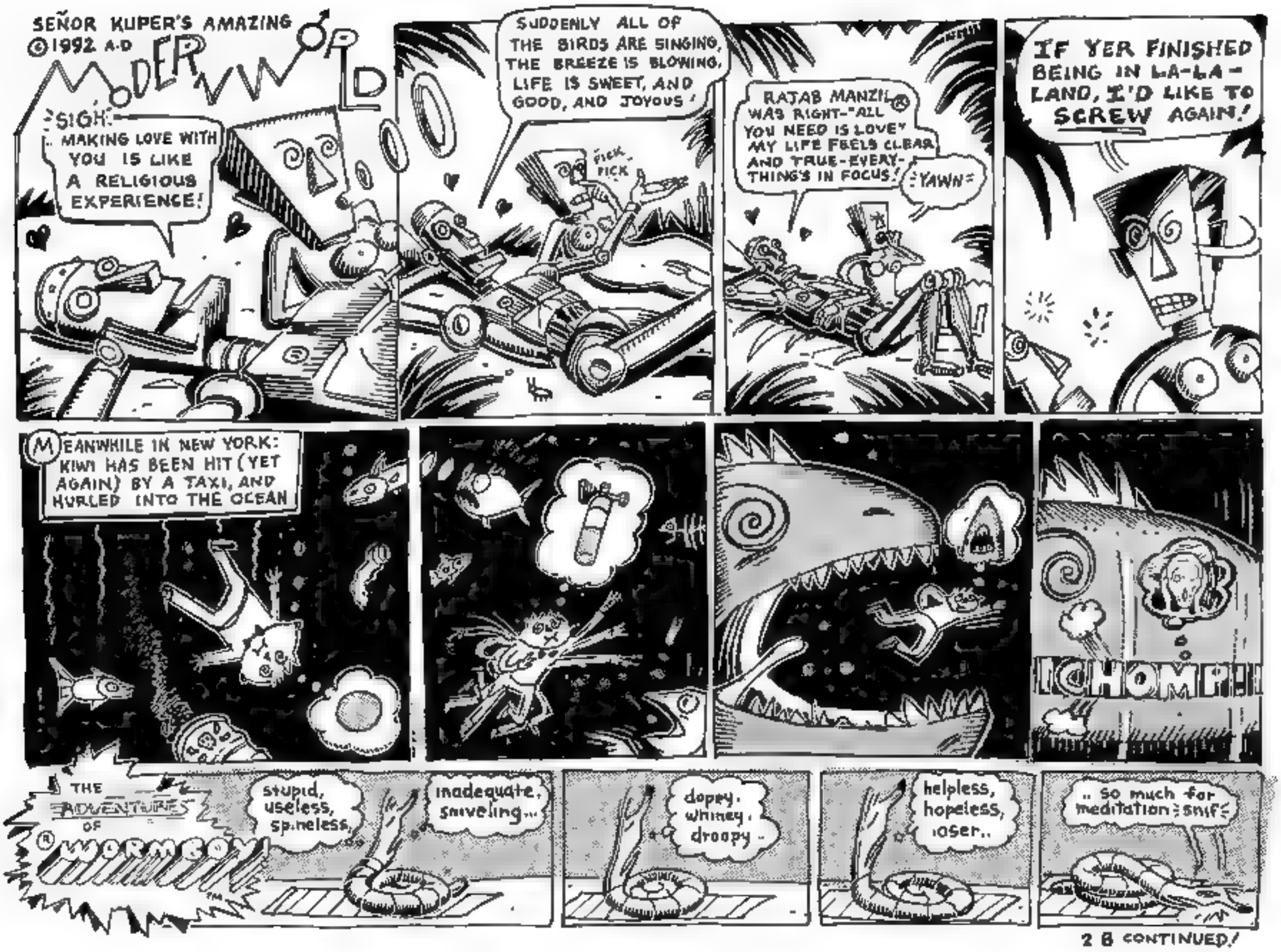
OH JOY, OH JOY, OH JOY!! WHAT A VALUABLE ADDITION TO MY COLLECTION!

RANDY COLLECTS ITEMS OF HYPERKITSCH

ALL IN ALL A GOOD DAY.

NOW I WONDER IF I MANAGED TO ARRANGE THAT SURPRISE PARTY FOR MYSELF?

NEXT SECRETION. RANDY FIGHTS FOR... A BIKE PEDAL !!


SEÑOR KUPER'S AMAZING
©1992 A.D
MODERN WORLD
:SIGH: MAKING LOVE WITH YOU IS LIKE A RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE!
SUDDENLY ALL OF THE BIRDS ARE SINGING, THE BREEZE IS BLOWING, LIFE IS SWEET, AND GOOD, AND JOYOUS!
FICK FICK
RAJAB MANZIL WAS RIGHT-"ALL YOU NEED IS LOVE" MY LIFE FEELS CLEAR AND TRUE-EVERYTHING'S IN FOCUS!
:YAWN=
IF YER FINISHED BEING IN LA-LA-LAND, I'D LIKE TO SCREW AGAIN!
MEANWHILE IN NEW YORK: KIWI HAS BEEN HIT (YET AGAIN) BY A TAXI, AND HURLED INTO THE OCEAN
KCHOMP!!!
THE ADVENTURES OF WORMBOY
stupid, useless, spineless,
inadequate, sniveling...
dopey. whiney. droopy
helpless, hopeless, loser..
.. so much for meditation :sniff:

2 8 CONTINUED/


# Erotic Adventure

**How to order sex toys without embarrassment.**

**How to use them without disappointment.**

If you've been reluctant to purchase sexual aids through the mail, the Xandria Collection would like to offer you two things that may change your mind

1. A guarantee
2. Another guarantee

First, we guarantee your privacy. Should you decide to order our catalogue or products, your transaction will be held in the strictest confidence

Your name will never (never) be sold or given to any other company No unwanted, embarrassing mailings. And everything we ship to you is plainly packaged securely wrapped, without the slightest indication of its contents on the outside

Second, we guarantee your satisfaction. Everything offered in the Xandria Collection is the result of extensive research and real-life testing. We are so certain that the risk of disappointment has been eliminated from our products, that we can actually guarantee your satisfaction – or your money promptly, unquestioningly refunded

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It is a very, very special collection of sexual aids. It includes the finest and most effective products available from around the world. Products that can open new doors to pleasure (perhaps many you never knew existed!)

Our products range from the simple to the delightfully complex. They are designed for both the timid and the bold. For anyone who's ever wished there could be something more to their sexual pleasure

If you're prepared to intensify your own pleasure, then by all means send for the Xandria Collection Gold Edition catalogue. It is priced at just four dollars which is applied in full to your first order

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Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

I am an adult over 21 years of age

_____
(signature required)

**Xandria, 874 Dubuque Ave., So. San Francisco, CA 94080. Void where prohibited by law.**

GOOD-BYE SUN

DADDY! DADDY!

PLANET EARTH 3006

© Kaz 1992

DADDY, WAKE UP!

SJAP

WHAT IS IT, MY LITTLE HYBRID?

SKULLY AND ME WERE PLAYING ZOMBIES IN THE MALIGNANT ZONE WHEN HE RAN AWAY SAYING HE'S NEVER COMING HOME AGAIN!

YOU KNOW THAT YOU RE NOT SUPPOSED TO PLAY IN THE MALIGNANT ZONE! AND AS FAR AS YOUR BROTHER IS CONCERNED... GOOD RIDDANCE!

GILBERT! THAT'S OUR *SON* YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! OF COURSE YOU'RE GOING TO SEARCH FOR HIM!

oh all right.

801

DAMN OFF SPRING!

WHY I HAD CHILDREN IN THIS DESOLATE TIME IS BEYOND ME. THE WHOLE PLANET REEKS OF DEATH! OUR BODIES ARE AN AMALGAMATION OF RICKETY REFUSE ANIMATED BY A LIFE FORCE CRIPPLED BY DISEASE AND DEPRIVATION!

WOW! LOOK AT ALL THESE BONES! THERE MUST HAVE BEEN A HELL OF A STRUGGLE HERE LAST NIGHT. NOBODY LIKES TO BE EATEN!

THE SUN IS A RAPIDLY FADING STAR. EVERY DAY IT GROWS DIMMER AND COLDER. WE PRAY THAT IT DOESN'T BURN OUT IN OUR LIFETIME!

HEY! WHAT'S THAT?

HO! HO! A DRUNKEN YIPWORM*! THESE GUYS ARE DELICIOUS!

Z Z Z

* THE ALCOHOLICS OF THE ARTHROPOD WORLD, YIP WORMS ARE A NEWLY MUTATED COUSIN OF THE COMMON EARTHWORM.

I SURE AM GOING TO ENJOY EATING YOU!

NOW, NOW WAIT A MINUTE, BOSS! YOU DONT WANT TO EAT ME!!!

no?

HIC

I JUST POLISHED OFF A WHOLE BOTTLE OF CARBOLIC COLA®! MY BODY IS SO FULL OF TOXINS NOW--- IF YOU TRIED TO DIGEST ME YOUR COLON WOULD EXPLODE!

HIC

I... I SHOULDN'T BE DRINKING AT ALL, BUT I'M SO FRUSTRATED! I'VE BEEN OUT HERE IN THE ZONE FOR DAYS LOOKING FOR MY FAMILY. WE GOT SEPARATED DURING A DUST STORM. I'M AFRAID... I HAVEN'T BEEN A VERY GOOD FATHER!

-SOB SOB

YEAH?

IT'S HARD ENOUGH FOR ONE LONE YIP WORM TO SURVIVE OUT HERE... BUT A WHOLE FAMILY IS ALMOST *impossible!* I'VE BEEN VERY SELFISH IN THE PAST... BUT IF YOU LET ME GO--- I *swear* I'LL MAKE IT UP TO MY WIFE AND KIDS. I SURE DO LOVE THEM!

SNIFF

YEAH, I'M OUT HERE LOOKING FOR MY LOST SON. NORMALLY I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT HIM BUT... YOUR PATHETIC STORY HAS STIRRED SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE ME. I GUESS MY FAMILY AIN'T THAT BAD!

GOOD LUCK, LITTLE FELLA!

BLESS YOU, SIR!

WOW! I FEEL REALLY DECENT!

IT'S AMAZING HOW DOING A GOOD TURN FOR SOMEONE ELSE COULD MAKE ME FEEL SO NOBLE, ETHICAL, FAIR AND PURE. FROM NOW ON I WILL GIVE THE TOLERANT HONORABLE AND CONSIDERATE PART OF MY PERSONALITY EQUAL TIME.

THE SUN IS FLICKING IN AND OUT AGAIN. SOMETIMES IT GOES OUT FOR DAYS AT A TIME. I'D BETTER HURRY UP AND FIND THAT KID!

CRACKLE

SPUT

arbolic Void

A BIT LATER

SKULLY!

MALIGNANT ZONE

PHHHT!

CRACK!

THERE GOES THE SUN YET AGAIN!

HELLO, POP!

WHY YOU LITTLE BASTARD! I OUGHTA RING YOUR BONY NECK.... I...ER... ...MEAN... IT'S REALLY GOOD TO SEE YOU SON! I'M SO HAPPY I FOUND YOU!

SAY BOY, WHAT'S THAT YOU GOT IN THE BAG?

IT'S A BIG PAT YIP WORM, POP! HE GAVE ME SOME BULLSHIT STORY *then* HE TRIED TO TELL ME THAT, HE KNEW YOU!

SO, I BASHED HIS BRAINS IN AND SQUEEZED ALL THE CARBOLIC COLA® OUT OF HIM!

WANNA EAT HIM?

GO!

NO, I WANNA SNAKE THE TOILET WITH HIM---- OF *Course* I WANNA EAT HIM! GO GATHER SOME WOOD!

SPUT SPUT

POOF

THE END

# TINA BLOOM

F. INFANTE.

Tina Bloom
El Olimpo

# HURRICANE

PARA SILVIA.

YELLOW ALERT!

DARLING AXEL! SOMETHING REALLY EXTRAORDINARY HAPPENED YESTERDAY I WAS REARRANGING SOME FURNITURE AND I FOUND A STACK OF YOUR LETTERS I FELT CURIOUS AND STARTED READING THEM AND THE MEMORY OF THAT SUMMER SWEPT ME LIKE A HURRICANE....

© Controlled by NORMA.

AN IMPULSE I COULDN'T RESIST MADE ME TAKE A TRAIN BACK TO THAT CITY. I WAS BEWILDERED, CONFUSED.. LIKE A CRIMINAL GOING BACK TO THE SCENE OF THE CRIME.

¡CUIC!
¡CUIC!
¡CUIC!
¡CUIC!
¡CUIC!
¡CUIC!

BROOOM!

MEANWHILE

ORANGE ALERT!

I WENT BACK TO ALL THE PLACES WE'D BEEN TOGETHER, BUT I DIDN'T SEE YOU THE ENTIRE CITY WAS FULL OF YOUR SMELL, IT'S DOORWAYS STILL WATCHED OVER OUR PASSIONATE EMBRACES, BUT YOU WEREN'T THERE

KRAAK!

WHAT?

THOSE EARS THEY MUST BE

AXEL!

TINA?

MEANWHILE .

RED ALERT !

HMMMM.... I WOULD RECOGNIZE YOU AMONG THOUSANDS...

IT WAS A GREAT IDEA

TO COME BACK TO THE LIGHTHOUSE ..

AXEL !

TINA !

LET'S SAIL AWAY TOGETHER. FOREVER.

AT YOUR ORDERS, CAPTAIN !

AXEL!

AT THAT VERY MOMENT ,

THE NEXT MORNING

WHAT? AXEL ?

iiiiii...

NO!
OH NO!
AXEL

:COUGH:
:COUGH: WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

HOLD ON! THE HURRICANE IS ABOUT TO HIT US!

IT'S ALL OVER HERE, PUT THIS ON!

THE HURRICANE.. MY SUITCASE

CRASH

SHIT! MY LETTERS!

OH, NO! NOT THAT OLD STORY AGAIN!

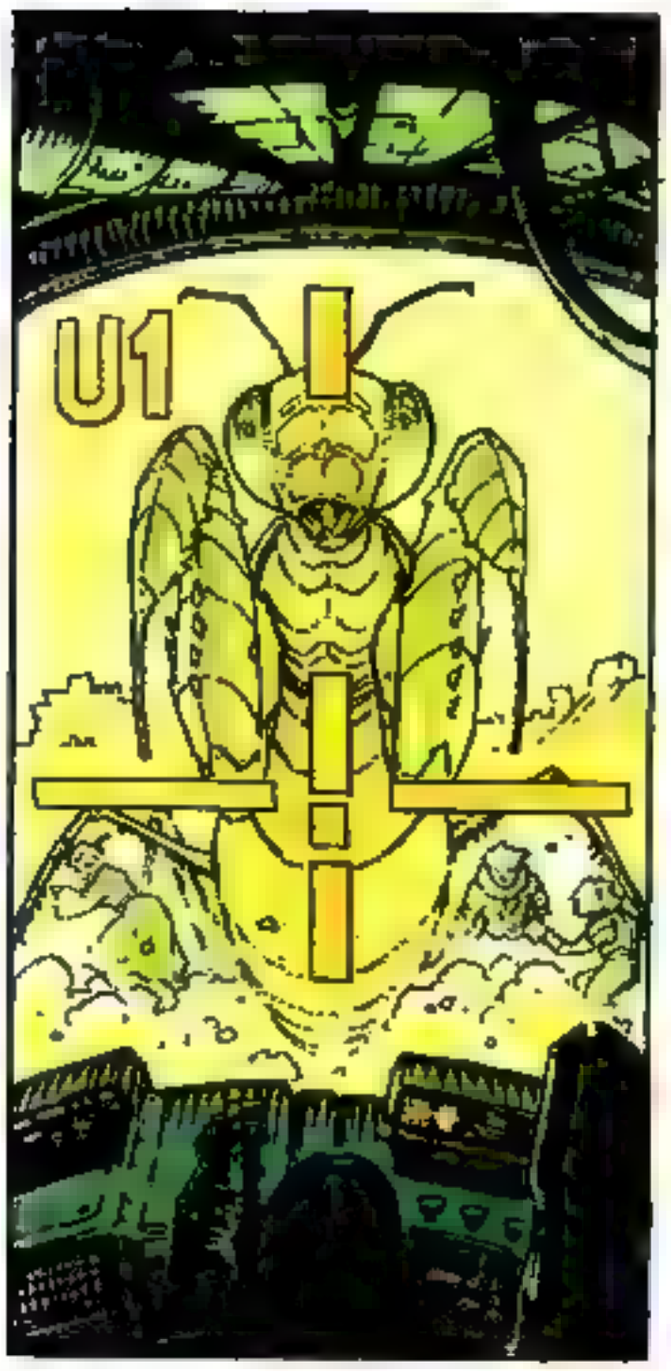
SNIFF! SNIFF!

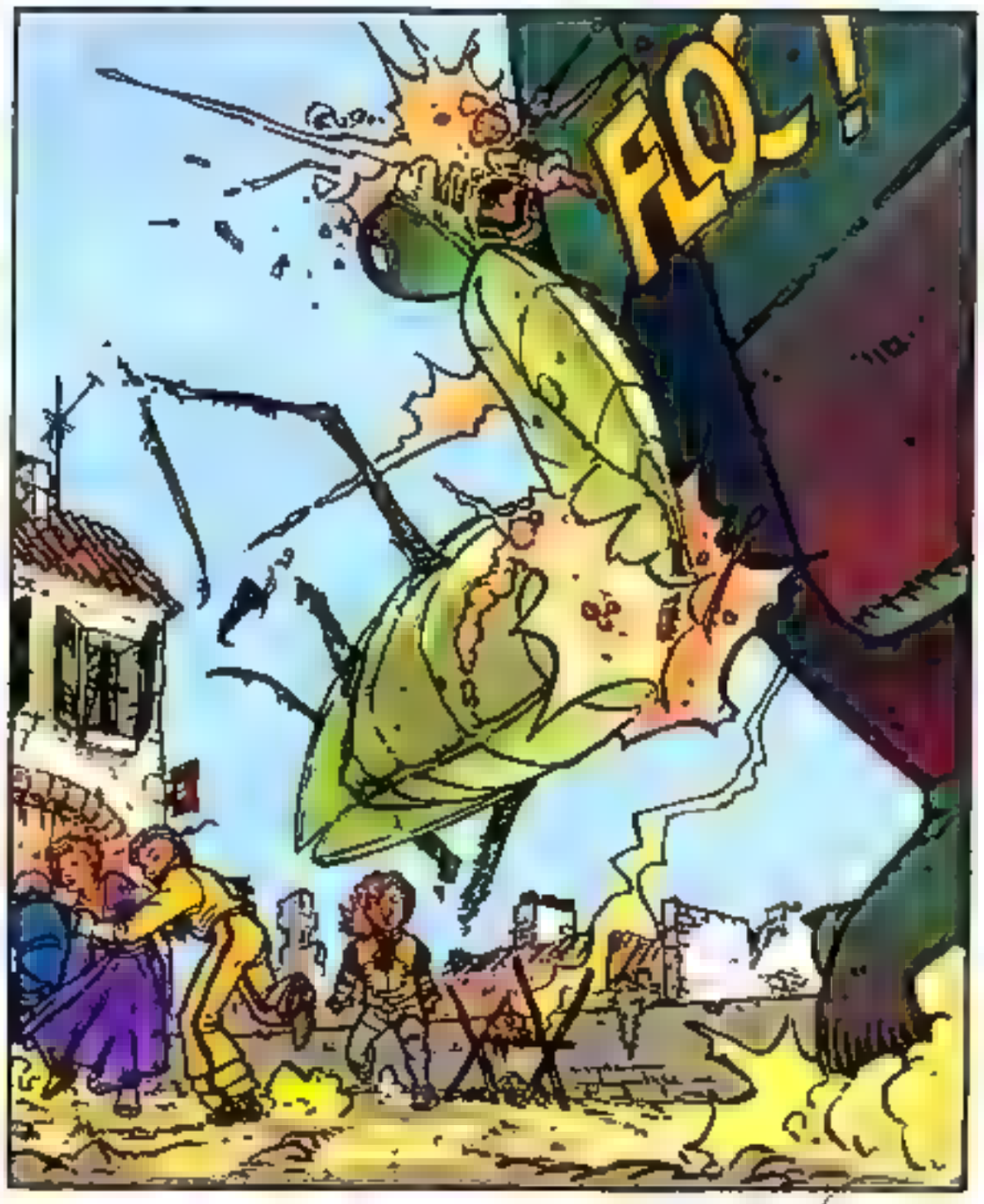
SNIFF! SNIFF!

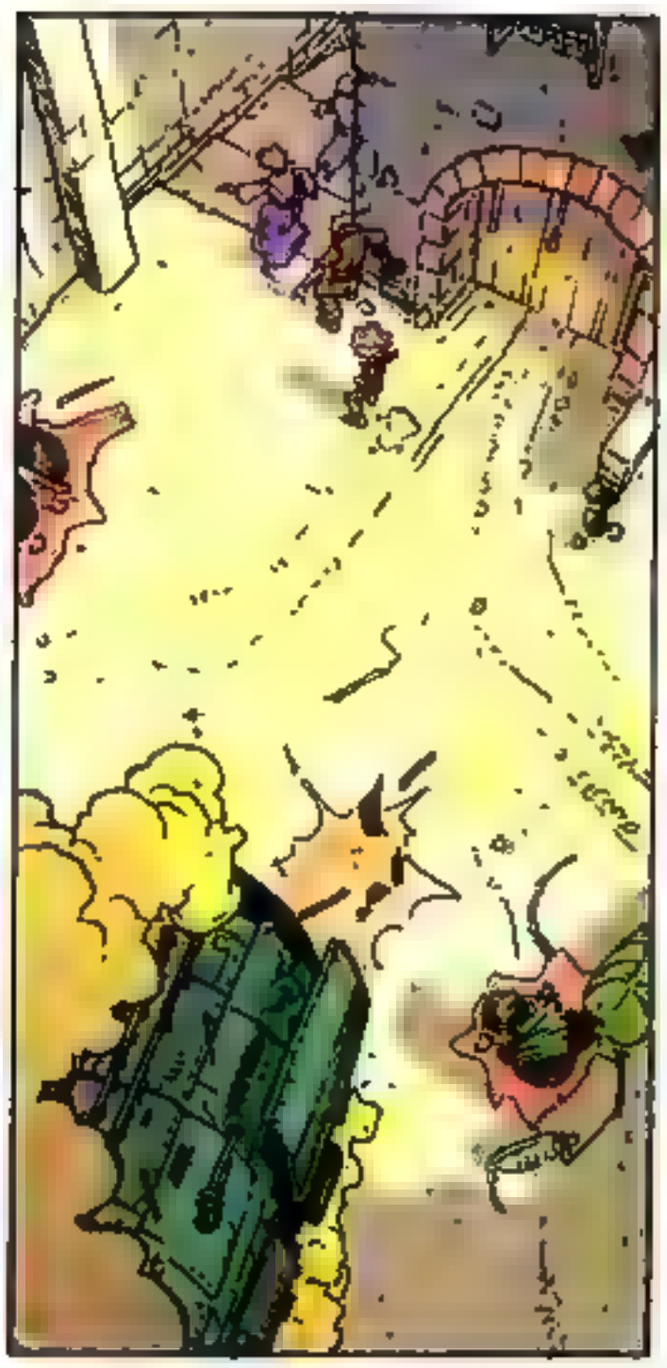
COME ON, TINA! LET'S GO HOME YOU NEED A REST

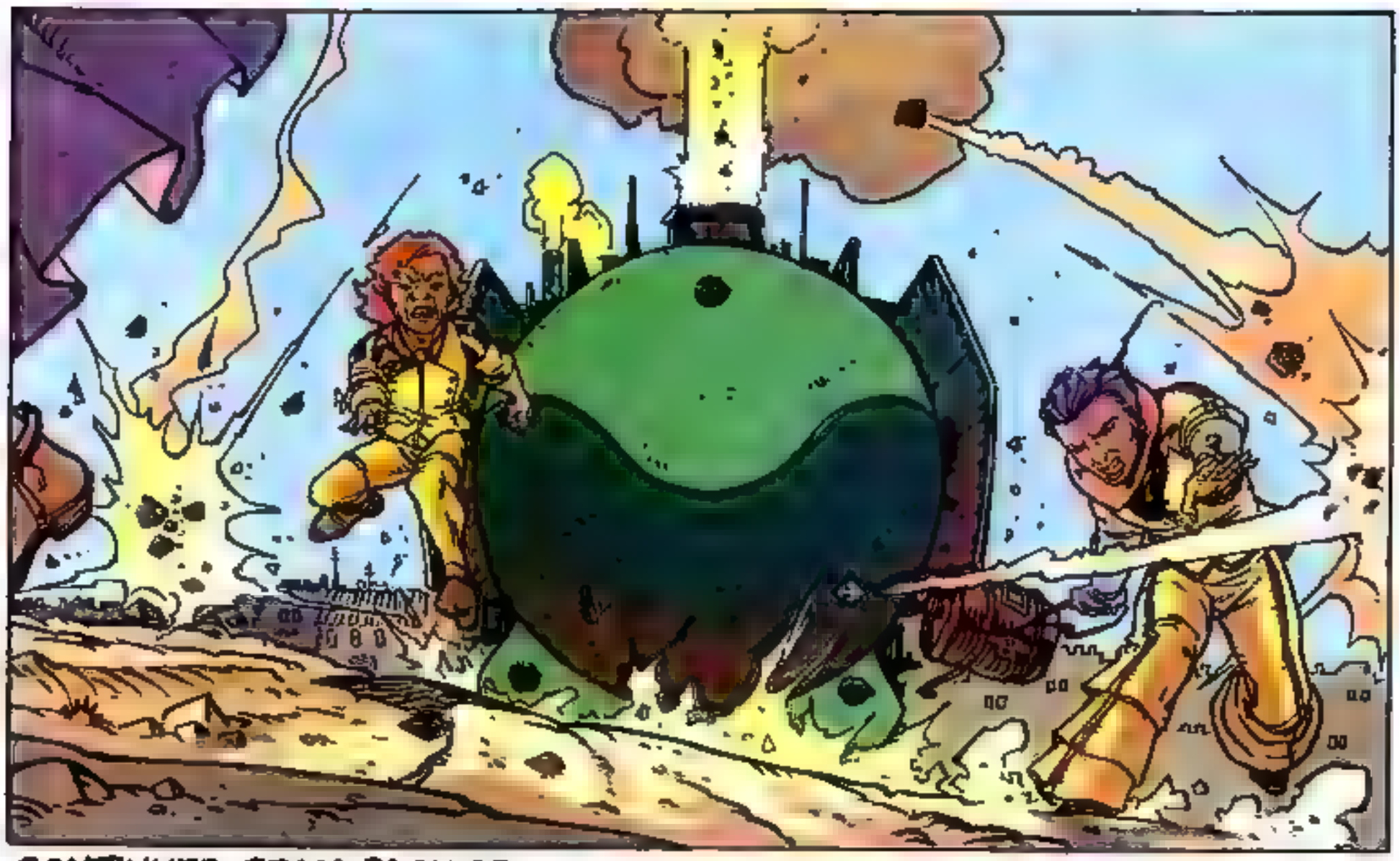
AXEL, DARLING. I KNOW NOW THAT I HAVE LOST YOU FOR-EVER. I'M NOT EVEN SURE THAT OUR SUMMER TOGETHER EVER EXISTED. THIS CITY IS NOW THE SADDEST PLACE ON EARTH.

THE END





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NOTHING WILL SAVE YOU THIS TIME, JEROME!

PET PET PET !?!

PET PET PET

!!!

I HAVE NOT ORDERED YOU TO STOP, MR. MOUSE.

IT IS NOT MY FAULT, MY LORD. WE ARE OUT OF GAS!

WHERE HAVE THE SEASONS GONE?

SANAT

JEROME AND HIS FRIENDS WON'T HAVE TIME TO FIND SHELTER THE ACID RAIN WILL FINISH THEM OFF...

DON'T BE SO SURE, KALI MY INTUITION...

AS SOON AS THE RAIN ENDS WE WILL ATTEMPT TO EXPLORE THE SURROUNDINGS...

YOU ARE RIGHT ONCE AGAIN, MY LORD

PRINCE JEROME AND HIS SUITE MAY HAVE FOUND SHELTER UNDER THE CARAPACE OF A GIANT BEETLE THEY MUST'VE GONE ON...

I COULD NOT STAND TO LOSE AFTER BEING SO CLOSE

27

KALI, I CAN ONLY RELY ON YOU TO GET ME OUT OF THIS MESS YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE CAPABLE...

FIND JEROME AND KILL HIM FOR ME. BRING ME BACK HIS BALLS. AND NICHOLAS'S EYES. AND VIOLHAINE'S BREASTS....

I WILL MAKE A GREAT RAGU SAUCE!

WHAT ABOUT FUEL, MY LORD?

WE'LL WORRY ABOUT THAT WHEN ALL THE REST IS OVER.

MY REVENGE TAKES PRECEDENCE!

WHY DON'T YOU TALK TO ME ANYMORE?

I HAVE NOTHING TO SAY THAT YOU DON'T ALREADY KNOW

I KNEW IT! YOU HAVE CHANGED, VIOLAINE! YOU HAVE CHANGED SO MUCH THAT I CAN HARDLY BELIEVE WHAT I SEE!

YOU'RE RIGHT, JEROME. I HAVE DECIDED TO FIGHT. I WANT TO GET RID OF ALL THE "DEAD WEIGHT"

EVERYONE HAS A DIFFERENT DEFINITION OF "DEAD WEIGHT".

I'M SORRY.

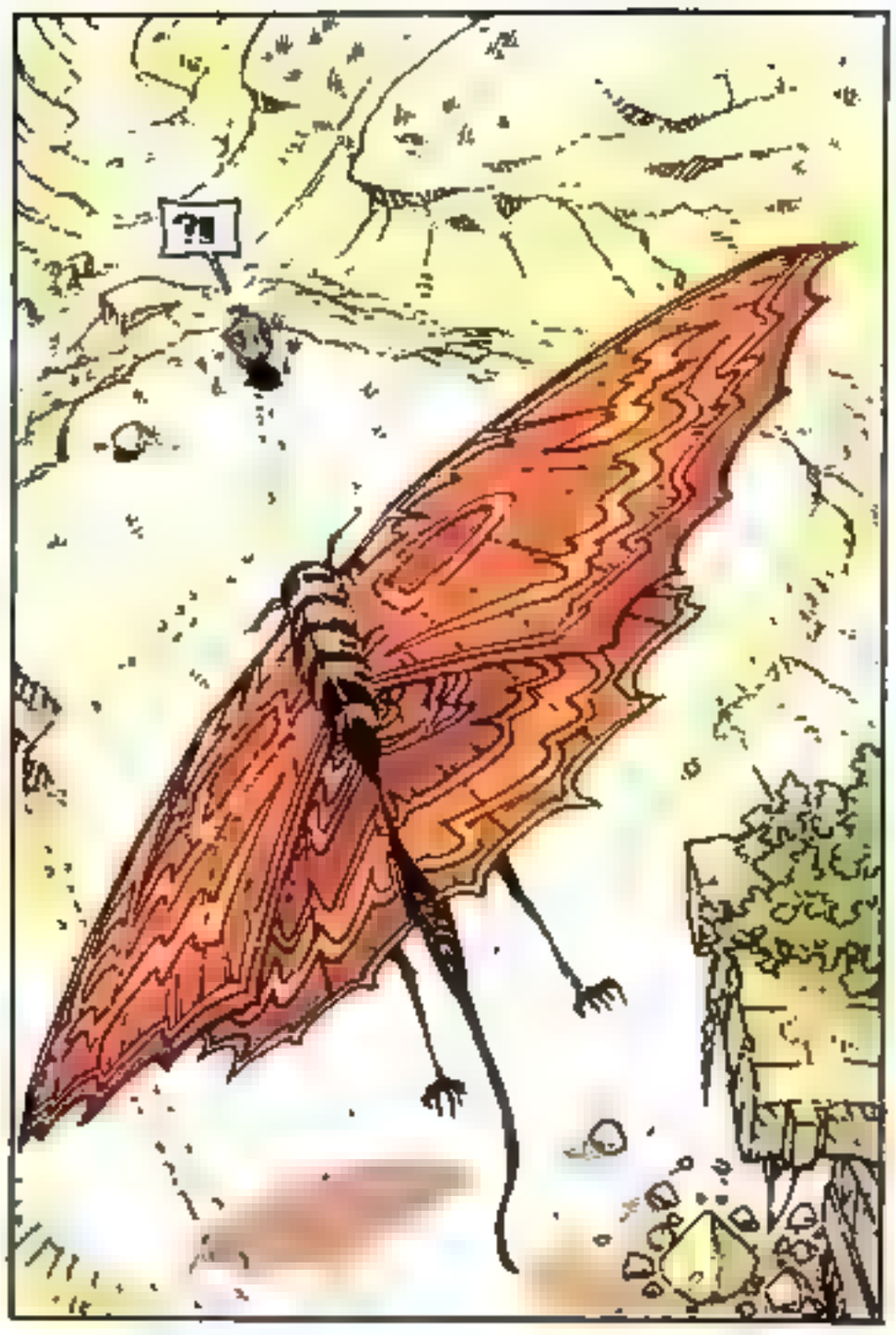
I THINK I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. YOU HAVE USED ME TO SATISFY YOUR PETTY AMBITION. THE RATS ALWAYS DESERT A SINKING SHIP. AM I RIGHT?

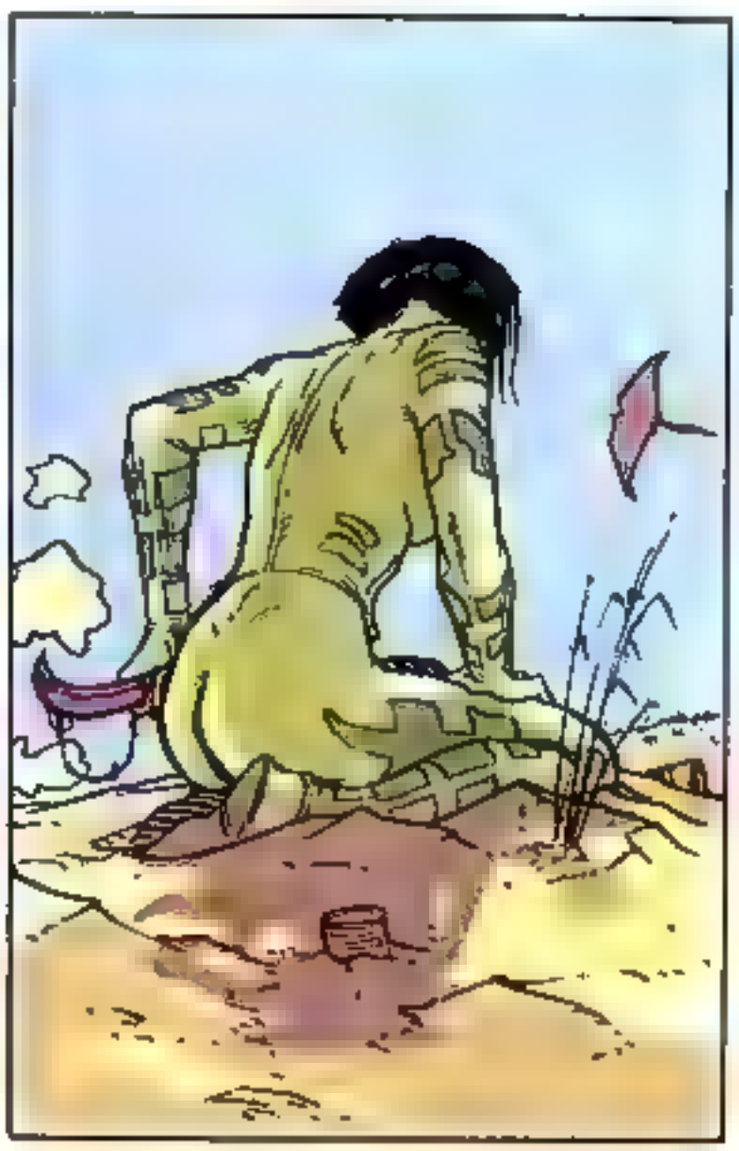
YOU DON'T REALLY THINK YOU CAN FIGHT MY COUSIN WITH YOUR NAILS AND YOUR PRETTY WHITE TEETH?

MALIK DOES NOT SCARE ME. HE'S ALSO JUST PLAYING. AND HE IS BOUND TO LOSE, IN THE END

WHAT DO YOU WANT?

I WANT TO SEE NICHOLAG'S DREAM COME TRUE





THERE IS STILL ONE SMALL DETAIL WE'VE NEGLECTED TO REPORT, MY LORD OUR REFRIGERATORS WERE POWERED BY OUR BATTERIES, WHICH ARE NOW DEAD OUR FOOD'S BAD..

WE COULD TRY EATING YOUR FISH

IF YOU'RE TRYING TO MAKE A JOKE, IT ISN'T FUNNY!

OUR FRIEND THE PRAYING MANTIS GAVE ME SOME INTERESTING INFORMATION. WHEN WE CROSS THIS FRONTIER, WE ENTER A LAND WHICH IS ABSOLUTELY TABOO AND FORBIDDEN! NO MUTANT INSECTS HAVE VENTURED THERE!

LISTEN TO ME, GOLIATH! I HAVE GIVEN THIS A LOT OF THOUGHT. I'M OLD AND TIRED, AND I WOULDN'T WANT TO BECOME A DEAD WEIGHT TO YOU. I'M GOING TO STAY HERE

GREAT! I'LL STAY HERE WITH YOU. WE'LL WAIT FOR YOUR COUSIN AND WE'LL HAVE A GOOD LAUGH TOGETHER!

NO, GOLIATH, THIS IS NO LAUGHING MATTER.

I THINK THE QUEEN OF THE TERMITES WAS RIGHT: WE ARE THE LAST SURVIVORS OF AN ANCIENT RACE. WE HAVE PROVED OUR INCOMPETENCE ON ALL FRONTS..

WITH A GREAT DEAL OF SPIRIT, I MAY ADD, ALTHOUGH THAT'S OUR ONLY EXCUSE!

JUST LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE. MALIK'S ARMORED TRAIN STOPPED SUDDENLY, WHEN HE WAS ABOUT TO OVERCOME US. IT MUST'VE BROKEN DOWN--SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG.... BUT I DON'T THINK MALIK HAS GIVEN UP THE RACE, HE'S STILL HUNTING FOR US....

IF I WERE HIM, I WOULD HAVE ORDERED KALI TO FIND US AND FINISH US OFF. I'M READY TO BET THAT'S WHAT HE DID. KALI IS AFTER US..

SHE'S A MACHINE BUILT TO KILL. YOU ARE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN HOLD HER BACK, AND MAYBE EVEN BEAT HER.

WHY WOULD I DO THAT?

YOU'LL DO IT FOR NICHOLAS AND HIS WONDERFUL EYES .. AND TO SAVE VIOLHAINE. TO GIVE THEM A CHANCE TO DISCOVER THE SEA...

I BEG YOUR PARDON PRINCE, BUT YOU ARE TAKING SOME LIBERTIES HERE..

I HAVE BEEN YOUR BUFFOON AND YOUR LACKEY FOR OVER THIRTY YEARS AND I HAVE SERVED YOU FAITHFULLY ! I HAVE ACCEPTED ALL YOUR WHIMS, YOUR CRUELTY, YOUR BITING TONGUE, YOUR ARROGANCE !

BUT THIS TIME I WILL NOT. YOU'RE ASKING TOO MUCH ! I WON'T BE YOUR SLAVE ANYMORE !

ARE YOU AFRAID, GOLIATH?

I FEAR NOTHING AND NO ONE, PRINCE.

YOU ARE VERY BEAUTIFUL, GOLIATH, ALMOST AS BEAUTIFUL AS I AM.

BUT WHY BE SURPRISED? YOU REMEMBER THAT I ALWAYS USED TO SAY: LIKE MASTER, LIKE SERVANT...

BUT IN TRUTH, GOLIATH, I THINK THAT OLD PROVERB: LIKE FATHER LIKE SON IS MORE APPROPRIATE TO DESCRIBE THE BONDS BETWEEN US....

AND NOW, GO !

WE'LL HAVE TO DRAW LOTS FOR OUR NEXT MEAL, AS THEY SAY IN THAT FAMOUS SONG. DON'T YOU AGREE, MR MOUSE?

VIOLHAINE! I DIDN'T LOVE YOU THE WAY I SHOULD HAVE, AND NOW I'M NO LONGER IN YOUR DREAMS.

VIOLHAINE, MY LOVE, I FEEL EMPTY WITHOUT YOU!

I TOO WAS ONCE A LITTLE BOY, JUST YEAH HIGH.

I MUST HAVE GROWN SOFTER WITH AGE, BUT I'LL PULL MYSELF TOGETHER AGAIN. I AM STILL PRINCE JEROME OF DEADMOON! I WILL GO BACK HOME!

EVEN THEN I COULD NOT STAND TO SEE MYSELF CRY!.

AND I WILL MAKE LOVE TO MANY MORE YOUNG WOMEN AND HAVE AS MANY YOUNG DARLINGS AS I WANT I WILL HAVE EVERYTHING MY HEART DESIRES!

I AM STILL PRINCE JEROME OF DEADMOON I AM 107 YEARS OLD..

I DON'T LOOK MY AGE, BUT I DON'T THINK PROLONGING MY YOUTH MADE A GREAT DIFFERENCE AFTER ALL, WHAT ARE A FEW MORE YEARS OF LIFE COMPARED TO AN ETERNITY OF DEATH?

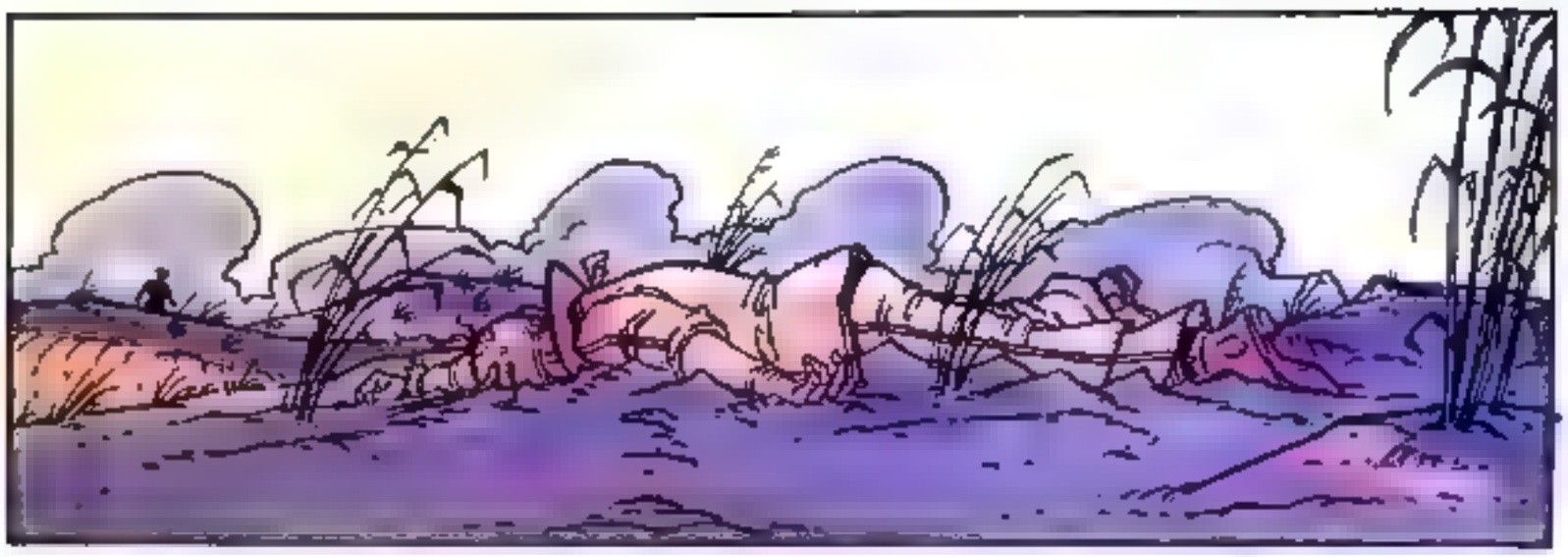
EVEN AS I PROLONGED MY LIFE, I FAILED TO SHORTEN THAT ETERNITY OF TIME AFTER DEATH. AND EVEN THOUGH I WILL FIGHT TO KEEP ON LIVING, THE TIME OF MY DEATH WILL COME

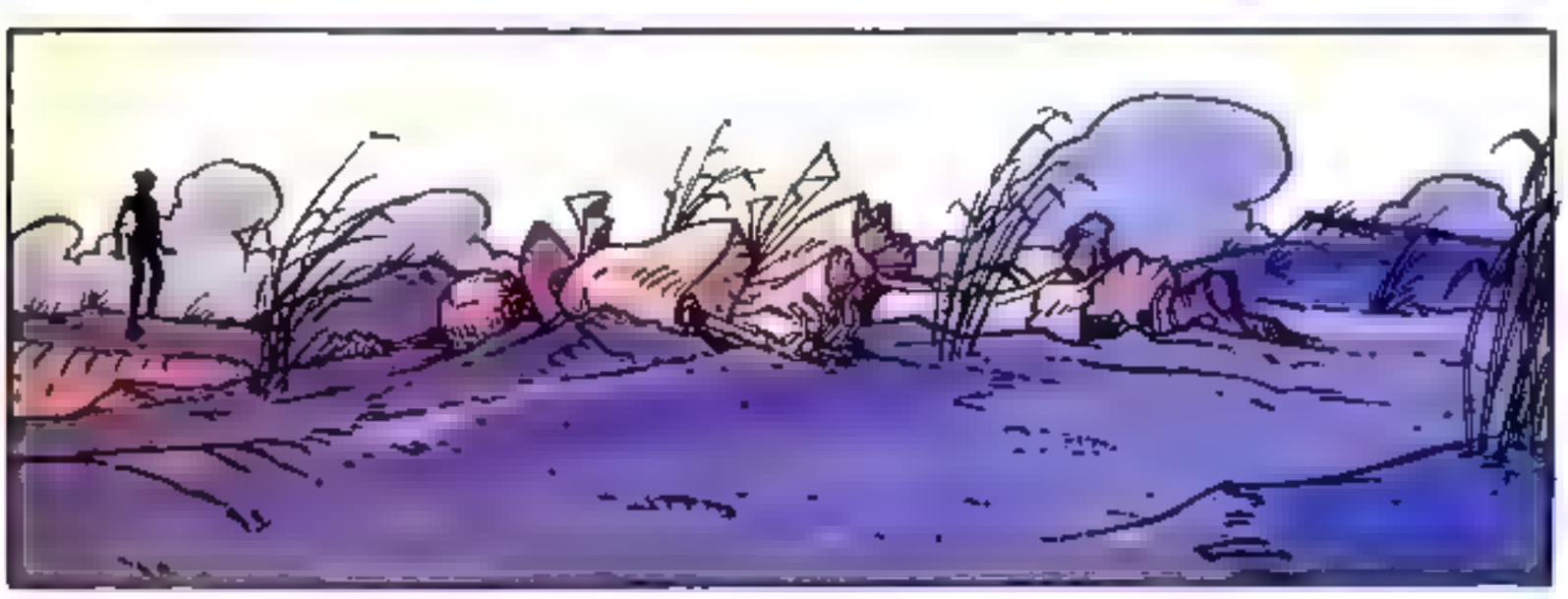
NOW I AM ALL ALONE ! I HAVE A SLIGHT HEADACHE ! PROBABLY DRANK TOO MUCH CHAMPAGNE YESTERDAY AND SMOKED TOO MANY CIGARETTES. I'LL FEEL BETTER SOON ! EVERYTHING WILL BE BACK THE WAY IT WAS...

I DON'T WANT ANYMORE CHAMPAGNE . JUST SOME WATER JUST A LITTLE WATER PLEASE...

I AM TIRED OF ALL THESE LIES..

I THINK I'LL SLEEP LIKE A BABY...





GAS du POUX
JEROME WAS RIGHT, OUR GALLANT SPIRIT WAS OUR ONLY EXCUSE
GO ON WITHOUT ME NOW, CHILDREN, AND GOOD LUCK!

KALI ISN'T BACK YET! DUKE, DO YOU THINK SHE HAS BETRAYED US?

KALI IS A MACHINE, AND MACHINES DON'T KNOW WHAT BETRAYAL IS.

MACHINES ARE HAPPY TO DO AS THEY ARE TOLD THEY EITHER WORK, OR THEY GO TO THE RUBBISH HEAP

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU, KALI

WE HAD TO MEET SOONER OR LATER

DID YOU KILL JEROME?

NO, GOLIATH. I DIDN'T HAVE TO BOTHER. TIME DID IT FOR ME. ONE CANNOT CHEAT TIME WITH IMPUNITY

I WILL NOT USE MY CLAWS, GOLIATH, NOR MY SABEL TEETH. THIS WILL BE A FIGHT BETWEEN EQUALS.

I AM INFINITELY FLATTERED BY YOUR KINDNESS AND I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER TO MAKE SURE WE STAY ON EQUAL FOOTING.

...BUT BEFORE WE ENGAGE IN OUR TUSSLE, I FEEL THAT I HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I CANNOT LET YOU PURSUE VIOLAINE AND NICHOLAS, WHOSE DREAMS GO FAR BEYOND OURS...

YOU AND I KNOW WHAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF. WE ARE THE WARRIORS OF AN ANCIENT RACE WE HAVE PROVED OURSELVES AND HAVE REACHED OUR FINAL CHALLENGE....

WHATEVER THE RESULT OF THIS FIGHT, WE HAVE GIVEN OTHER PEOPLE A CHANCE. YOU MUST DIE, KALI, ONE WAY OR ANOTHER. DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

YOU TALK TOO MUCH, GOLIATH!

RICARD

WE HAVE TO GO ON ! I WANT TO BELIEVE IN YOUR DREAM WITH ALL MY HEART AND STRENGTH. YOU TWO ARE ALL I HAVE LEFT

THE SEA AT THE OTHER END OF THE EARTH.' AN END TO ALL WARS ! AN END TO STUPIDITY AND HORROR !

I KNEW YOU WEREN'T AN IDIOT AND THAT YOU COULD SPEAK ! WHY HAVEN'T YOU EVER SPOKEN TO ME BEFORE ?

YOU WERE THE PRINCE'S CONCUBINE ! I HAD NOTHING TO SAY THAT YOU'D EVEN WANT TO LISTEN TO.

WHAT'S DIFFERENT NOW ?

YOU HAVE BECOME MY SISTER, LIKE THE LITTLE MOUSE. MY SISTER AND MY LOVE...

YOU'VE DEFENDED YOURSELF VERY WELL, I COULDN'T HAVE HOPED FOR A BETTER ADVERSARY

I HAVE A SPECIAL SURPRISE FOR YOU, MY PRETTY IT'S HIDDEN IN MY HUMP

I HAVE A TIME BOMB IN THERE, WHICH CAN SOMETIMES COME IN VERY HANDY IT WILL EXPLODE IN PRECISELY 20 SECONDS. IT'S RANGE IS MORE OR LESS 100 FEET YOU'VE GOT A SLIGHT CHANCE TO MAKE IT OUT OF HERE ALIVE IF YOU RUN VERY FAST .

YOU'RE BLUFFING !

ONLY 15 SECONDS LEFT.

14.

13..

12

39

10...

6...

...5...

3...

...2...

...1...

ZERO!

I KNEW YOU WERE BLUFFING...

IT DIDN'T STOP YOU FROM RUNNING AWAY! I REALLY HAD YOU THERE, DIDN'T I? AND IT ISN'T OVER YET!

TO BE PERFECTLY HONEST, MY BOMB DOESN'T HAVE A TIMER. I CAN SET IT OFF WHENEVER I PLEASE.

IT'S RANGE IS STILL MORE OR LESS 100 FEET. YOU ARE STILL TOO CLOSE TO ME, MUCH TOO CLOSE!

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS GOLIATH? WHY?

I EXPLAINED EVERYTHING TO YOU VERY CAREFULLY BEFORE, MY DARLING. BUT YOU DIDN'T EVEN TRY TO UNDERSTAND!

CLIC

PAPA USED TO SAY IT WAS WRONG. WE ARE BROTHER AND SISTER..

IT DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE . YOU ARE OF AGE

NOTHING MATTERS ANYMORE.... ONLY OUR DREAMS.

THIS IS MY DREAM...

LATER, THEIR PASSION SPENT, THEY FALL ASLEEP IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS LIKE TWO LITTLE FOUNDLINGS...

WHEN WE FINISH THE SAILOR, THERE WON'T BE ANYONE LEFT TO EAT!

NO ONE, TUBNIMBUS? WHAT ABOUT THE THREE OF US?

WE WILL LEAVE THIS UP TO CHANCE SCIENCE WILL TAKE HEADS, AND RELIGION TAILS.

AND YOU, DUKE?

I WILL CHOOSE THE MOST TENDER MORSEL.

WE'RE ALMOST THERE I'M SURE THE SEA IS RIGHT BEHIND THIS HILL JUST A LITTLE MORE.

VIOLAINE, I'M THIRSTY!!

I KNOW...

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

I BEG YOUR PARDON ... MY DREAM DOES NOT EXIST AFTER ALL...

NOT REALLY. I DON'T HAVE ANY STRENGTH LEFT. I CAN'T GO ON, PLEASE DON'T INSIST...

I DON'T WANT TO DREAM ANYMORE .. I JUST WANT TO SLEEP...

IS RELIGION LUCKIER THAN SCIENCE? IS THERE A LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM THIS? WHAT DO YOU THINK, BASIL?

KALI WILL NOT COME BACK!

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER ANYMORE, BASIL LISTEN TO ME CAREFULLY I'VE INVENTED A NEW GAME FOR US TO PLAY, A REALLY NIFTY ONE..

PICK, PICK AND TEAR!

TRIP

VIOLAINE DISCOVERS THE SEA WHICH STRETCHES BEFORE HER TO THE HORIZON. AN OCEAN OF STICKY SHIT AND YELLOW PUS.

NICHOLAS'S DREAM!...

NICHOLAS CRIES IN PAIN AND SURPRISE HE IS SUFFERING GREATLY AND VIOLHAINE TRIES TO CONSOLE HIM, SHE ROCKS HIM LIKE A BABY, MURMURING GENTLE WORDS IN HIS EAR

NICHOLAS, WE HAVE PULLED IT OFF!

WHAT? THE SEA?

IT'S RIGHT OVER THERE I'VE SEEN IT!

NICHOLAS CAN NO LONGER SEE BUT HE FEELS VIOL-HAINE'S HAND AND NICHOLAG SMILES AS SHE TAKES HIM TOWARD THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CHIMERA HE'S EVER IMAGINED ..

NICHOLAS IS BLIND BUT HE DOES NOT NEED HIS EYES TO IMAGINE THE SANDY PEBBLE BEACH AND, JUST A LITTLE FURTHER, THE BLUE SEA, WITH A FEW WHITE CAPS AND SILVERY FISH APPEARING HERE AND THERE.

NICHOLAS SQUEEZES VIOLHAINE'S HAND TIGHTLY TO COMMUNICATE TO HER HIS RENEWED STRENGTH AND HIS JOY...

HE IS THE ONE NOW WHO LEADS HER TOWARD THE WAVES.

AGAINST ALL ODDS...

I HAVE NO PLACE NOW IN THE WORLD ALL MY OLD FRIENDS HAVE ABANDONED ME! MY FOOD SUPPLY HAS FINISHED .

The End

HUMANITY IS AT WAR WITH NATURE. ALL ITS RESOURCES ARE BEING STRIPPED RUTHLESSLY AWAY. THE ONLY FACTOR OF ANY IMPORTANCE IS IMMEDIATE GAIN. BUT DEEP IN A NEARLY INACCESSIBLE JUNGLE, NATURE IS FIGHTING BACK. WHEN THE STRUGGLE IS OVER, THE ONLY THINGS LEFT ARE...

# THE MOUNDS

HERE THE HEAT AND OPPRESSIVE HUMIDITY NEVER LET UP. EVEN THE SKIMPIEST GARMENTS CLING TO SWEATY FLESH. VERA MIGHT GO NAKED LIKE THE NATIVES IF IT WEREN'T FOR THE NASTY BUGS. HUNDREDS OF VARIETIES COULD BE COUNTED IN A FEW SQUARE YARDS.

NOW SHE DRAGS HERSELF INTO AN ESPECIALLY REMOTE SECTOR TO JOIN HER HUSBAND. UPDATING THE LOGGING COMPANY'S MAPS FOR MAXIMUM HARVEST COORDINATION WAS NO PICNIC.

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OUCH!

SMAK!

A DAMNED DINOSAUR!

HERB HAD TALKED A COUPLE INDIANS INTO SHOWING HIM A FORBIDDEN SACRED SPOT. HE WAS GOOD AT TALKING PEOPLE INTO THINGS. HE HAD TALKED HER INTO COMING INTO THIS HELL HOLE HADN'T HE?

WHAT'S THAT UP AHEAD, GIMO?

IT'S STRANGE ALL RIGHT BUT WHY THE BIG DEAL ABOUT IT BEING "TABOO"?

MISSY VERA, THIS BAD PLACE WE GO NOW.

BAD? I THOUGHT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE SACRED!

SOMETHING ABOUT THESE MOUNDS –

I WONDER —

CHK CHK CHK

JOJO KELEMAKO. HAI! HAI!

CHK CHK CHK CHK

BONES INSIDE?!

INDIAN BURIAL GROUND! SO WHAT?!

CLUMPCH!

GET UP! WAKE UP, TAKU!

GIMO! DAMN YOU, COME BACK HERE!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS, YOU NAKED BASTARD!

HUH? COLLAPSED, BUT NOT BREATHING HARD. HARDLY BREATHING AT ALL!

WHAT'S THAT? WHO –?

HERB!

DAMN YOU, YOU TWO TIMIN' SCUM! THIS IS THE WAY YOU REPAY ME?

WHAP!

MAKIN' IT WITH AN INDIAN **SLUT** THE MINUTE MY BACK IS TURNED!

SSHHRRIKKTCHH
GOD DAMN IT, LET GO OF HER!
UGH, I FEEL SICK

...VERA ...HELP ...ME ...KILL ...ME...
KILL YOU? THAT'S NOT A BAD IDEA.
...PLEASE ...VERA ...SHOOT ...NOW...

THOSE THINGS ARE BURROWING THROUGH YOU, HERB. DOES IT HURT? THEY COME UP OUT OF THE GROUND TO EAT YOU AND LAY THEIR EGGS IN YOU.

BUT WHAT MAKES YOU SO TIRED YOU CAN'T RUN AWAY?

I DON'T THINK I'LL SHOOT YOU, HERB. I THINK THE SITUATION IS WELL IN HAND.

MAYBE I'LL JUST SIT HERE AND WATCH FOR A WHILE..AND..REST..

HERB, THEY'RE BEGINNING ..TO COVER.. YOU.. OVER ..AGAIN..

..COVERING ..ME... TOO...

..I ..WANT ..TO ..SCREAM..

THE END